

THE SWORD OF GRIM

(c) Mar. 30, 2008 Michael Shire

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - SUMMER - DAY

A hunting scene. Three young men on horseback ride singly through a dense forest trail. They travel at walking pace.

The leader is OLAF, 20, medium long blonde hair, wearing a chainmail shirt over earth-colored clothes, and carries four spears in one hand, the reins in the other. He is looking intently ahead.

Following him is GUNNAR, 28, very long hair, with some braids, a friend to OLAF, also looking intently around the forest. He too carries four spears, but has no chainmail.

Lastly, the younger brother to Olaf, HAGEN, 14 years old. He too wears a chainmail shirt, a viking helmet over his blonde hair, has a round viking shield flipped around onto his back, and carries two spears. He's skinnier and not paying as much attention.

INSERT: The grasses and bushes ahead rustle and they hear an animal GRUNT.

OLAF

There! Just ahead - on the right.

Gunnar also looks more intently at the bushes ahead.

The horses are looking a little wide-eyed, and start to act skiddish, don't want to go ahead, afraid of what is unseen. Olaf stops his horse, then calms his horse, patting his neck.

OLAF

(to the horse)

Easy. Easy, now.

(then to the others)

Gunnar! I don't want to lose him in the brush. You keep driving him forward, and I'll circle around and get ahead by two hundred paces. Hagen: Just watch.

GUNNAR

Be careful Olaf!

Olaf steers his horse to a right angle to the trail and gallops away. CAMERA follows his galloping through the woods.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Olaf stops his horse in a small clearing, far ahead of Gunnar. He leaps off his horse (no stirrups), with the four spears in hand. He pushes the horse on the butt to get him to leave, then goes directly onto the forest trail.

He crouches down, setting down three spears on the ground, and looks intently ahead.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Gunnar keeps walking his horse, struggling with her, as she is frightened of the beast in the brush.

GUNNAR

Woo woo woo. Come on beasty...
keep going, you ugly thing.

(then to Hagen, behind him)
Come on. Start shouting. We gotta
keep driving him forward.

Hagen starts shouting too. And they keep moving forward.

ON BEAST: It is a nasty-looking black hoary BOAR, with large tusks. It grunts and runs through the brush.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Olaf hears them coming very close. He changes his grip on the spear to underhanded, and hefts it to get balance.

CLOSE-UP ON BOAR: snarling, grunting and still coming.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Hagen is behind Gunnar, riding his mare, and shouting 'Woo woo.'

HAGEN

Don't we have to get down, to drive it?

GUNNAR

No. Just the hunter faces it. That'll be Olaf.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

The bushes ahead start to rustle and he can hear the grunts of the boar.

ON Olaf - He's intently watching the trail ahead.

ON Trail - The BOAR breaks through the bushes and charges directly at Olaf.

Olaf stands and throws his spear very expertly, and it hits the boar, BUT glances it in the body! It does not stick in.

The boar squeals and turns around!

Olaf calmly squats, picks up another spear and stands again, ready to throw it.

The boar heads back to the bushes just as the two horses come through to the clearing.

Hagen's horse rears at the boar coming at it, and Hagen falls off the horse, onto the ground, hitting hard. His helmet falls off!

The boar is confused now, and pauses. It then sees Hagen on the ground, and runs at him!

Hagen sees the boar coming and hurriedly puts up his round shield for protection.

Olaf throws another spear and it flies through the air. It misses, and hits the ground JUST behind where the boar was.

The boar runs up and rams the shield of Hagen, putting two big gouges into the shield from its tusks. It also hit Hagen's chest and tore some chainmail.

Gunnar is still on his horse, getting it under control.

Olaf sees he missed and he grabs another spear from the ground beside him.

OLAF

Gunnar! Kill it!

Gunnar is looking for a chance to throw a spear at the boar.

Olaf runs at the boar, yelling, and holding his spear steady. He runs right at it, and when it sees him, it charges directly at Olaf again.

The snarling boar runs right into Olaf's spear and is struck through the chest. Its mass keeps it going right onto Olaf. The spear shaft SNAPS and Olaf falls to the ground; the gushing boar on top of him. Olaf is able to get out from under it quickly, and get to his knees, with a dagger in his hand.

Gunnar expertly throws his spear, harpoon-like and gets it in the body! The boar twitches and is dead.

Nearby is Hagen, quite still, watching this scene, sitting on the ground.

Gunnar watches Olaf, red with the boar's blood, who looks to the others, smiling. Gunnar then gallops after the lost horse.

OLAF

(looking over at Hagen)

You OK?

HAGEN

Yes. I... think so. (pause)

That was just like the old tales.

OLAF

Hey. You look like you took a good hit!

Hagen looks at the shield, tosses it aside, then examines his own shirt. He winces in slight pain as he sees a good scratch on his chest.

HAGEN

Oh. He must have got me. But I'm OK... just scratched.

Olaf gets to his feet and comes over to his younger brother, smiling.

Gunnar arrives on his horse at the scene, holding the reins of Hagen's mare.

GUNNAR

Don't lose your horse, Hagen. It's a long walk back.

Hagen looks up and smiles.

OLAF

Hagen here just got his first wounds from a boar.

GUNNAR

But you look fine.

HAGEN

Just a scratch. You got blood on you too, brother. Your forehead.

Olaf stands over Hagen, holding out his hand to help Hagen stand up.

OLAF

I think it's just the boar's blood
... oww ...

Then he notices a wound - the back of his hand is bleeding.

OLAF (cont)

I guess he got me too.

Olaf helps him to his feet. Hagen then grabs his horses reins from Gunnar. Olaf looks to Gunnar, up on his horse.

OLAF

I don't suppose you could get
Cloudy for me?

GUNNAR

Of course.

Gunnar spurs his horse and gallops away.

HAGEN

That beast was nasty! He would
have killed me if he had the
chance.

OLAF

Well, it's not like hunting deer,
or even wolf. At least THEY always
have the sense to run away. Let me
see...

Olaf examines his younger brother's scratch and torn
chainmail.

OLAF

Looks alright. You know, father
would kill me if anything happened
to you.

HAGEN

I know. But I'm old enough to look
after myself now.

Olaf looks at him and shakes his head. He wraps his wounded
hand with a cloth kerchief.

OLAF

You might THINK you can, but you
need a few more years, and a lot
more experience. Come on. Let's
see the boar.

Olaf takes his brother under his arm, giving him a
brotherly hug. Hagen follows Olaf, bringing his horse. They
go to the boar on the ground. They look at him a beat.

HAGEN

Do you think there's more of them
around?

OLAF

Ha ha. Not after what they've seen
us do to this one!

Gunnar then rides up with Olaf's horse.

OLAF

Thanks, Gunnar.
(then to Hagen)
Well? Do you want to bleed him?

HAGEN

Sure.

Hagen hands his reins to Olaf, gets down to the ground and brings out a long dagger. He puts his knife to the boars throat and cuts deeply, making the blood gush out.

He stands up, wiping his dagger.

OLAF

Good. Now let's get the beast onto
your horse, so we can go back.

EXT. FOREST BOULDER - DAY

Sitting against a large boulder, the three vikings are drinking wine from two wineskins.

HAGEN

When a man goes hunting, and is
wounded, he deserves to have wine.

OLAF

Well, I can't argue with you
there. Gunnar, give him some of
yours!

GUNNAR

Mine? I have the smaller wineskin!

OLAF

That's just the point. I'm the one
bleeding. I need more for me.

Gunnar hands him the wineskin and Hagen drinks deeply. Olaf laughs and drinks some more too. Then Gunnar gets his wineskin back. He notices a raven landing nearby in a tree.

GUNNAR

(to Hagen)

Don't drink too much, young one.
You might fall off your horse.

OLAF

OK, Hagen. You're man enough to
drink. Now, tell me, what about
women?

HAGEN

(gets the wineskin)

Huh?

OLAF

OK... I mean, GIRLS, in your case.
Tell me, do you have a girlfriend?

Gunnar and Olaf wink at each other and smile, trying not to
laugh.

HAGEN

Well, yes. I think you've seen the
girl who has eyes for me!

OLAF

It's not cousin Elsen? No? Or
Frigga?

HAGEN

No. It's Erica. She's one of the
hand-maidens to your Ursa.

OLAF

Oh. She's too young, don't you
think?

HAGEN

Well... I'M young too! I'm not in
any rush to go out and get
married... like you.

OLAF

I'm just teasing brother. Of
course you shouldn't be thinking
about marriage yet! You have so
many girls to fall in love with
yet.

Gunnar notices another raven landing.

GUNNAR

I remember when you felt exactly that way, Olaf.

OLAF

Yes.. I was young... but we all grow up sooner or later.
(drinks, then a beat)

You must get married to another noble, to keep your family strong. But you'll be very lucky indeed if you're like me and marry the one you love.

GUNNAR

Here here: to Olaf! He IS a very lucky man.

Gunnar drinks now. Olaf smiles and gets to his feet slowly. Hagen reaches over when he's half-way up and pushes him over.

Olaf tumbles, and winces at his hurt hand, looking at Hagen.

HAGEN

(laughing)

I think it's OLAF who's had too much already.

Olaf rushes over to Hagen and pins him on the ground.

OLAF

OK, Joker. Tell me you're sorry for doing that. Say it!

HAGEN

Oww! OK. I'm sorry. You win.

Olaf smiles and gets off him. Olaf stands and looks around slowly in a circle. Gunnar too is looking around in wonder. In the trees around are ten large ravens, that have not cawed yet, but are quietly watching them.

GUNNAR

Something's going on here, Olaf.

OLAF

It's like they're... watching us,
and listening to us.

Then one raven flies down and lands on the boulder, cawing.

Hagen gets to his feet, looking around.

GUNNAR

I think he's trying to talk to us.

HAGEN

What would he say?

OLAF

They want to warn us.

The raven caws loudly, flaps its wings, and flies 50 feet down the trail, landing on the ground. The other ravens follow the first flying away down the trail.

GUNNAR

Or... want us to follow it.

OLAF

The gods sometimes send animals to help men. I think we should follow them.

The men get on their horses. The ravens caw loudly ahead.

EXT. HILLSIDE HUT - DAY

The men round a corner and see smoke coming from a pile of sticks and moss, set into a hillside. The ravens fly ahead and most of them land on the roof of this HUT.

Olaf is in the lead, the boar is draped over Hagen's horse, the middle one, and Gunnar is last. They continue down the trail until they are fifty feet from the hut.

Olaf stops and waves the others to come up closer. They exchange glances, and wait for Olaf to do something. Olaf calls to the house:

OLAF

Hello? In the hut ... um, who lives there?

An old woman inside calls back:

OLD WOMAN (o.c.)

The hunters! Good. Good. Come down from your horses.

Olaf gets down from his horse, while the others stay seated. He draws his sword and approaches closer, bravely.

OLAF

Show yourself.

A rickety door opens up and an old woman, RAGHILD, about 60 years old steps out with a walking stick in hand. She has a close fitting head covering in black, though you can see her white hair sticking out the bottom. Her skin is weathered but her eyes are sharp and piercing and a yellow color. She wears a large black shawl over ragged clothes.

RAGHILD

Don't worry great warrior. I'm only an old woman. Come closer.

Olaf puts his sword into its scabbard, turns to the other to nod 'OK', and turns back to walk slowly to her.

OLAF

I might look young, but I know that not everything is as it appears.

RAGHILD

That is spoken like a man with some experience. I know you... Olaf, the Thanes son... and brother Hagen.

Olaf stops a few feet from her. He sees she has black raven's feathers in her hair.

RAGHILD

I see your hand is hurt. I am a healer.

OLAF

Are you the Wise Witch? I think
the name was Raghild?

RAGHILD

Not WAS! IS! I'm not dead yet.

OLAF

I beg your pardon. (bowing)
Did you summon us here?

The two other men have tied their horses on trees and come up behind Olaf. Raghild looks up onto the roof. She lifts up her walking stick, which has a heavy cross bar, and a raven flies down and lands on her stick. She lets it rest on the ground.

RAGHILD

Yes. I knew you'd be hunting
today. I had my family look for
you. It's good you followed them
back here.

OLAF

Why?

RAGHILD

You and your brother are in
danger. I can only sense as much,
but I'd like to see your future.

Gunnar goes around the group standing there and he is trying to spy into the hut through the open door.

RAGHILD

And who is your friend?

OLAF

Gunnar is a trusted friend to the
family. He's a great hunter and
warrior too.

RAGHILD

(to Gunnar)

No-one else in my home, friend.

(then to Olaf)

Come inside. All three of you.

She looks at Hagen, smiles, then whispers something to the raven, who flies away. Olaf looks to Hagen and he just shrugs at him. Olaf follows Raghild into the hut.

INT. RAGHILD'S HUT - DAY

This hut is smokey from a small fire in the center. The smoke goes out a central hole in the roof. The cracks in the log walls are moss stuffed but some daylight still comes through. From the ceiling, a number of small wooden bird cages hang, some with ravens in them, others with mice or ferrets.

Raghild sets her walking stick aside and goes to a shelf to get a bottle of oil. While the three men enter, she pours some into her hands and rubs it on her arms and face.

RAGHILD

Here. Put some on you. It stops
the stingers from biting.

She hands it to Olaf, but he looks skeptical. So she takes her oily hand and touches his face with it. He bravely doesn't move.

RAGHILD

It won't hurt you.

Hagen slaps a stinger (mosquito?), and so does Olaf, so he pours some more out and rubs it on his face and arms.

Raghild brings another small jar of brown ointment, taking some out with her finger.

RAGHILD

Let me put some healing ointment
on your hand, hunter.

Olaf reluctantly unwraps his wounded hand, trying to calculate her intentions.

RAGHILD

Come now. You should trust me.
Your father did.

OLAF

When was that?

RAGHILD

He brought you both to me when you were new-borns. Now, feel the ointment sooth the sting.

She rubs it on and he feels better. She gets a newer cotton rag and wraps in around his hand.

OLAF

That feels a lot better.

She goes to Hagen and rubs some ointment on his scratch on his chest.

RAGHILD

I don't think you can use a bandage on this.

HAGEN

Thank you.

GUNNAR

I see ravens are your favorite.

RAGHILD

They're my familiars ... my eyes.

RAGHILD (cont)

You brothers can sit down. Gunnar will want to stand, I'm sure.

Gunnar looks over at her and grins. She knows them well. The two brothers sit down in front of the fire. Raghild gets some weeds from a large pouch and thrown it on the fire.

RAGHILD

This is a soothing incense ... keeps the insects away too.

She sits down across from them.

RAGHILD (cont)

Your father brought you both to me. I'm sure you don't remember. He wanted to know your fates.

The two brothers look at each other.

HAGEN

And... do you know?

RAGHILD

I have visions - sometimes powerful dreams. The Gods show me things. Lately, my sisters and I have been dreaming about your marriage, Olaf.

OLAF

What do you see? I must know.

GUNNAR

What sisters?

RAGHILD

I have two other sisters - also Seers and healers, and they live in far lands. We speak to each other in our dreams.

OLAF

Tell me, Raghild the Wise, what do you see for me and my Ursa?

RAGHILD

Come here, Olaf. I need a drop of your blood.

He rises, goes to her, kneels, as she produces a small knife. She cuts his fingertip very small and then takes his hand down to her brass chalice and lets a drop go into the dark liquid.

He stands up. She motions to a cloak hanging behind him.

RAGHILD

Hand me my raven's cloak.

Olaf grabs it, and brings it back to her, helping her get it over her back. It is filled with black raven's feathers, and a hood comes over her head too with more feathers.

He goes and sits down while she opens a small bag pouch of powder and pinches some into her chalice. She drinks it up, sets it down, and stares into the fire.

Gunnar now squats down too, watching her.

After a moment, her eyes roll back and she shudders. Then she opens her eyes and stares into the fire again.

RAGHILD

Olaf, son of Thane Haleg, promised to be married to Lady Ursa in one week's time.

(pause)

I now talk to my sister. (pause)

Olaf is here. Yes, and Hagen. I see him on a stormy sea.

(pause)

You see another warrior traveling to these lands.

(pause)

All fates are uncertain, yes. Sometimes the Gods favor men.

(pause)

This is no future vision... they are HERE!

Raghild looks up from the fire to Olaf. She turns her head left and right, jarringly.

RAGHILD

Olaf. Your fate is here, now. Your enemy has arrived on these shores.

GUNNAR

What does that mean, witch?

RAGHILD

Arhus is attacked. He comes to take Ursa away.

Olaf is suddenly excited, and rises to his feet.

OLAF

Who is he?

RAGHILD

The son of the southern king.

OLAF

Let's go. Right now.

Olaf heads for the door, opening it. Hagen is right after him. Raghild calls out to Hagen.

RAGHILD

There is great danger for all of you. Beware.

OLAF

Thank you for the warning, Seer.
Pray to Odin that we stop this.

The rush out the door and she watches after them.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL TO ARHUS - DAY

Olaf is in front. All three galloping through the woods to get to the town. Olaf looks noble and heroic.

They come through another area with less trees, and then they ride around a corner and see the town of Arhus ahead. They stop the horses a moment to analyze the scene they witness.

It is near a large bay, and inlet to the southern sea. On the shores Olaf can see two large long ships, each has a different painted sail. They are away from the few other smaller fishing boats.

From this distance the three horsemen can see smoke rising from a burning house.

Olaf spurs his horse to gallop again, and the others follow.

EXT. TOWN OF ARHUS - DAY

There are screams and town people running around trying to get away from their attackers. The enemies are VIKING warriors, wearing helmets and body armor, leather and chainmail, and carry round shields, wielding big axes and swords.

Most people run far, into the nearby woods, scattering.

Already a lot of dead bodies litter the ground. A few vikings run out of a house carrying chests of booty, and large rolls of furs. A man attacks them and kills one with a sword, but he is struck with a spear in the back and falls to the ground, dead.

In the background there are ten more warriors, each killing people running by them, and a few are throwing torches into houses.

A few warriors are trying to kick down the door to the large LONG HOUSE, the royal's feast hall. One of them is SVEN, 20, the prince who leads this raid. He yells orders to the others to kick down the door.

INT. ARHUS LONG HOUSE -

We see URSA, 16, a beautiful blonde. She is surrounded by a few men, who scramble to get more weapons to each other. They protect her and her three maidens, and the Lord and Lady Thanes.

The door is kicked a few more times and finally it breaks open. Four men enter with shields in front and carrying axes or swords. Two defending men engage them and they are killed after a few blows of the sword. The third man is able to kill one warrior, before he too is overpowered.

The Thane (clan chief) URSA's father, HOAG, 50, gets his sword out in front of him. His wife, FREYA, 45, watches from a few yards.

Prince Sven, long dark hair tied back, very fit and well armoured, approaches them.

SVEN

We don't need to kill you, Hoag.
Just give me your daughter.

The two men behind him get closer, menacing them.

HOAG

I couldn't live with myself if I
let you take her.

SVEN

So be it.

He rushes, swats aside the sword with his shield, and stabs Hoag.

Hoag's wife Freya rushes forward, screaming. She comforts HOAG as he lies there bleeding.

Sven goes past them and grabs URSA by the wrist.

SVEN

Now you're mine.

URSA

You can't have me!

Ursa scratches his face. He slaps her.

SVEN

Don't ever do that again, woman.
Now. Come with me.

Sven turns and drags a reluctant URSA behind him. She has tears in her eyes, and looks back at her mother and father.

URSA

Mother! Father!

EXT. ARHUS LONG HOUSE -

The warriors exit the house, and go towards the ships in the bay. Then suddenly from one side, Olaf's horse charges down on them.

Gunnar is right behind him, and he throws a spear right into an enemy warrior, who falls to the ground.

Sven hands his hostage Ursa to another warrior, then turns on Olaf and Gunnar, drawing his sword out. His shield was over his back, but now he flips it to the front.

Olaf throws his spear at him, but he deflects it with his shield.

He comes up to Olaf and stabs him in the leg. Olaf reels in pain and pulls out his sword too.

Meanwhile three more attackers join Sven. They hold spears out at Gunnar, and as he's distracted, another gets behind him and stabs him with a spear. He pulls on the reins and

the horse rears, galloping away as he is slumped in the saddle.

Olaf sees Ursa is almost to the ships, as the fight moves toward the shore. He attacks Sven with very hard hits from horseback, deflected by Sven.

OLAF

URSA!

URSA

(looking back at him)

OLAF! Come for me.

OLAF

I will.

Sven then goes up the horse and startles it, making the horse rear up, throwing Olaf to the ground.

Younger brother HAGEN rides his horse up to save Olaf.

HAGEN

Olaf! Come on. Get up.

Hagen holds out a spear to keep Sven away. But eight more viking warriors come from the town toward the ships. Four carry treasures, and four more carry women over their shoulders. They have axes and spears.

Sven grabs his spear and pulls it hard, pulling Hagen off balance. He falls out of his saddle too.

SVEN

Young lords, Olaf AND Hagen. You should make a fine ransom together.

Olaf has rolled and now on his feet, but his wounded leg makes him limp.

OLAF

You don't need him.... Just me.

SVEN

I think I'll get both!

Hagen tries to fight him, but he punches him in the face, knocking him out.

OLAF

You murderous bastard!

Olaf limps toward Sven, trying to fight him.

OLAF (cont)

Go ahead. Fight ME!

SVEN

You're no good to me dead.

Sven nods to the warrior behind Olaf, who cracks him on the side of the head with a spear shaft, breaking it. Olaf is knocked out and hits the ground.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. CHOPPY NORTH SEA - LATE DAY

There are two long ships heading south, separated by a hundred feet. They have masts up and catch some cold wind. Olaf is in the lead ship. There are piles of furs and chests here, along with more shields, and even a few chairs piled high. There are about ten men and women tied up, with Olaf and Hagen. The crew is about ten men.

Olaf wakes up on his side. His leg is tied up with a rope to stop the bleeding. He goes to move his leg and it hurts.

He looks up and sees Sven and two others at the prow of the ship, looking ahead. He sees the other crew too, and then Hagen, near him.

Hagen is already awake and is sitting up. Olaf moves toward him, and gets beside him without attracting attention.

OLAF

Are you hurt?

HAGEN

No.... I mean... my head hurts but I'm not bleeding.

OLAF

Good. I'll find a way to get out of this.

HAGEN

I don't think there IS a way out of this.

OLAF

Well, at least he didn't kill us.

Olaf gets up a bit and look around, spotting the other ship.

OLAF

They stole our own ship too.

HAGEN

Do you think Father's dead?

OLAF

I don't know.

At the prow, a warrior turns and sees them. He turns to Sven, who turns to see them. Sven approaches.

SVEN

You're awake. That's good. I hope you didn't bleed too much, Olaf.

OLAF

It's been a long time, but I DO remember you ... Prince Sven, from Jelling?

SVEN

Very good. Now, do you know why I raided Arhus?

OLAF

No.

SVEN

Because Lord Hoag has not paid the tribute tax he's owed to us for ten years now.

OLAF

For that, you come and burn their houses?

SVEN

Well, actually I had another reason too.

He leans down closer to him now to talk personal.

SVEN (cont)

I met your betrothed, Ursa, a year ago when they visited our lands. I thought then she's very beautiful.

OLAF

What do you want with her?

SVEN

I think I'll have her as MY bride instead. I couldn't see her with a northerner like yourself.

OLAF

Did she give you that scratch?

SVEN

(feeling his face)
She is spirited.

OLAF

Not just spirited. Stubborn. She won't let you have her.

SVEN

She's got no choice.

OLAF

After you raided her father's own town?

(pause)

You didn't hurt him did you?

Sven stands up, and looks over at the other ship.

SVEN

Nothing you say will stop what's going to happen.

OLAF

And nothing you do will stop me from getting her back.

SVEN

Such brave words for a prisoner.

Sven goes back to the prow of the ship. From Olaf's point of view, he sees him laugh with his comrades, and drink some wine.

Olaf turns to Hagen.

OLAF

Didn't the witch say that fate is uncertain?

Hagen looks cold and not altogether there.

OLAF

(to himself)

Yes. And that the Gods sometimes favor men.

Olaf gets his two hands tied together and raises them to his chest to get out his amulet of the three horns of ODIN, in silver. He holds it close and prays quietly.

OLAF

Oh, Odin. Creator of the nine worlds. Hear me from Asgard. Help me in my hour of need.

WIDE SHOT:

The clouds over the choppy sea get darker and gather slowly over the ships. The wind picks up a bit more, but now blows west and strains the sails and ropes. The crew look up at the mast and riggings. Sven talks to his crew at the front of the ship.

SVEN

The wind is changing. Reset the sails.

CREWMAN

We can tack against the wind if it doesn't get too much stronger, Prince.

Sven and he look up at the sky and the clouds get darker... almost black, then SHEET lightning strikes and lights up the clouds in waves.

CREWMAN

Thor must be angry at something.
He hammers the clouds with
Mjollner.

SVEN

I think he fights with Odin over
mead. They drink to our return.

The wind really gets strong now and rain starts. Soon the waves are 10 feet high, and there is blowing rain onto their faces. The ship rocks in the waves.

Olaf laughs, and beside him, Hagen thinks he's gone mad.

OLAF

ODIN. Free me from my enemies.
Send your hosts in the heavens to
take me away.

In the distance, in the dark skies, something flies near the ship. It is white. The Crewman shouts to Sven:

CREWMAN

We have to take down the sail or
it will tear, or push us over.

SVEN

Alright.

Then Sven looks behind him to the other ship, rocking in the waves, and back to his own ship. He sees Olaf laughing and looking up at the skies. Sven is angry, and he goes to him.

SVEN

Are you mad? This storm could
drown us all!

OLAF

Odin will save me.

Just off to one side of the ship, the white creature comes close, and they now see it is a figure of a beautiful woman, a VALKYRIE, wearing a long gown of all white feathers. She rides a white horse, with wings, and flies over the ship once, knocking down the crewman at the helm.

SVEN

(terrified)
By the Gods...

Sven falls to the floor, hiding. Olaf stands up, and calls out to her:

OLAF
Lady of the gods.

VALKYRIE
Odin hears your prayer.

He runs to the side of the ship. The Valkyrie comes close again, the horse lands only a moment, on the deck. She holds out her hand and Olaf jumps onto the back of the horse.

Her horse jumps up while beating it's wings down, and it rises off the deck. The lady reins it, and it turns, rising into the sky. They fly off into the distance, and out of sight.

Hagen can't believe his eyes, rubbing the rain away.

Sven is astonished also, slowly getting to his feet. The crewman comes to his side.

CREWMAN
Was that ... ?

SVEN
Yes. A Valkyrie.

The wind dies a bit and the rain lessens, but the skies remain dark. A FLASH of sheet lightning lights up the sky again. Thunder claps loudly and rumbles.

SVEN
You were right. Thor is angry.

EXT. ON THE OTHER SHIP -

Ursa is wrapped up in a fur and she watches the skies carefully. She's OK.

EXT. SHORELINE NEAR JELLING - EVENING

The skies are still dark, but the rain is gone, and sun is a half-hour away from setting. Olaf is riding with this Valkyrie. He notices the white swan feathers covering her entire coat, and her crown with wings.

They glide down to only 50 feet above the ground, slowing down as they reach the shoreline. They get out of the last daylight and into long shadows of evening.

There are trees just ahead, and some hills. They land into a clearing below, near a hillside. The horse then walks on a bit, reined by Valkyrie, to the dark entrance to a cave in the hill.

She calls out to the cave:

VALKYRIE

Wolf-witch. I have the Prince.

From within the cave entrance a door, twenty feet in, opens and firelight fills the darkness.

An old woman, wearing a grey fur cloak comes out. It is FEYHILD, 60, the sister to Raghild. She is surrounded by four grey wolves, who stay back on her command. The horse gets skiddish and turns sideways.

FEYHILD

You honor me, Valkyrie.

Feyhild comes to meet them alone. She reaches up and helps Olaf get down. When he touches the ground his wounded leg gives out and Feyhild supports him.

FEYHILD

Leave him to me now, and I'll take care of him.

VALKYRIE

Remember, Feyhild ... Odin watches you. Take care of this one.

Olaf looks tired and his eyes half closed. She supports him and they hobble to the cave.

Behind her, the Valkyrie rises up into the darkening sky and is gone.

INT. FEYHILD'S CAVE - NIGHT

EXT. SHOT - Inside the cave home of Feyhild. She has a number of wooden bird cages hanging and sitting on shelves. They hold owls and other small critters. There is a small fire burning against the wall, smoke rising out.

Feyhild has her grey fur cloak off, and shows her grey hair is short, her face is kind, and strangely her eyes are yellow like the wolves. Nearby are four grey wolves sleeping or watching her.

Olaf is lying on a bed, he is unconscious, and Feyhild stitches his leg with black thread. She hums a melody.

One wolf growls like he tries to talk.

FEYHILD

Oh. Don't make a fuss. We'll help him, and he'll help us.

EXT. SHORES OF JELLING - NIGHT

On a long pier, holding torches, are six people watching for the ships. A shivering DOCKMAN, 30, sees it first: a dark shape on the water, rounding a corner, and a glimmer of a lantern.

DOCKMAN

There! A light. The ships are here. Call for the King.

An assistant, carrying a torch, runs off to the main hall.

EXT. JELLING ROYAL HALL -

The assistant runs up to the door and talks to someone (inaudibly). Two guardsmen exit the hall carrying torches. They stand to either side of the door, while the king exits, with his queen at his side.

CLOSEUP: It is KING OTTAR, 60, and QUEEN EMMA, 50. They wear nice furs as cloaks, gold clasps and crowns.

OTTAR

You can wait here, my queen. No reason for you to be cold. We'll bring them directly here.

EMMA

(wrapping her cloak tighter)
Yes, my lord. I'll watch from here.

Ottar strides away, and one torch bearer rushes to get in front, to light his way. The queen watches as the first ship arrives at the dock.

EXT. SHORES OF JELLING - NIGHT

On the pier, the Dock man puts his torch into iron holders on the pilings. He reaches out and a ship crewman throws him a rope. He grabs it and ties it up to a post. At the rear another dock man does the same. The sail drops down.

SVEN jumps off onto the dock. One of his warriors also gets out of the ship. Sven goes to him.

SVEN

Get all the help you can. I want all this treasure safe, tonight.

The warrior leaves, and is telling others to get help. Then the king arrives. They met and smile at each other, but no contact.

OTTAR

Sven! You're quite late.

SVEN

Father! We had a very strange voyage home.

OTTAR

But did you get your bride?

SVEN

Yes. She's in the Arhus ship.

OTTAR

Good. You've gotten what you really want. And I have my tribute.

SVEN

We got their only Longship.

They turn and watch as the second ship comes gliding up to the dock.

OTTAR

And Lord Hoag? What did you tell him?

SVEN

(shakes his head)

Father ... we got carried away...

OTTAR

Is he at least alive?

SVEN

Wounded. I don't know if he lives or not.

OTTAR

These people are not exactly our enemies. Your bride may never forgive you, if he dies.

SVEN

Perhaps. I also have a ransom. A noble's son.

OTTAR

Who is it?

SVEN

Hagen, son of the Thane Haleg. I also had Olaf, his brother but...

OTTAR

(shakes his head)

It's difficult to arrange ransoms.

SVEN

Well somebody will pay something!

OTTAR

(not convinced)

We'll see.

The ship is now tied up, and the stolen women are taken off the ship by warriors. They carry them on their shoulders.

Ursa is also over a warrior's shoulders. When Sven sees her, he taps the man on the shoulder to release her. She stands up and has her hands tied with ropes. She looks at Sven with hatred. King Ottar is nearby watching her.

URSA

Murderer.

SVEN

We don't know if your father is dead.

URSA

The least you can do is untie my wrists. I can't swim back to Arhus.

Sven gets out his dagger and cuts her ropes. Her wrists are wounded. Ottar comes forward.

OTTAR

Lady Ursa. Welcome to Jelling.

URSA

Your son is no prince; he's a barbarian.

OTTAR

He's a great warrior, and commands respect.

SVEN

Come with me to our hall. I'll show you what the royal hall looks like.

Sven takes her by her forearm and walks away towards the house up the hill rise.

The king stays behind and now sees some of the treasures. He commands the men:

OTTAR

Take all this to our second guest house. And guard it tonight.

Ottar leaves.

INT. JELLING ROYAL HALL - NIGHT

Sven sits beside his father at the long table. There is lots of meat and breads on the table.

Then he stands up, spilling mead from a large horn, and toasts his fellow warriors.

SVEN

To all of us who came back. A toast.

He drinks, and they all follow.

SVEN

To all of them who didn't make it back. May they go on to Valhalla tonight.

They all laugh and drink again. A few have the young girls they took from Arhus, having them sit on their laps, and give them mead to drink. The youngest is 13 y.o.

The king's wife, EMMA, is sitting behind him with a few other women. She gets up and talks to Ottar.

EMMA

This will not please the gods, my husband.

OTTAR

Be quiet now. This is a victory for Sven!

Emma backs away, shaking her head.

Sven drinks and looks to his father. Then he sits down, looking over at his father, grinning.

SVEN

What do you think of Ursa?

OTTAR

Beautiful .. uh ... Where is she?

SVEN

You're right! She's missing the feast.

Sven gets up and starts toward the door. He's stopped by a few men who gladly clap him on the back, and tell him he did good.

Then, at the door, Ursa enters in a clean dress, accompanied by an older woman of the household.

Sven sees her.

SVEN

Ho ho! There's my bride-to-be.
Isn't she beautiful?

Men beside Sven agree heartily, and Sven waits for her to be led to him by the woman. Sven bows drunkenly. Ursa scowls at him, saying nothing.

SVEN

My lady. Come. Have something to eat... to drink.

Ursa says nothing and follows after him. She sits beside him as he sits down. She looks over at the King and nods slightly.

OTTAR

Lady.

SVEN

Please, eat till you're full.

Ursa looks at the food, then back to him.

URSA

Am I a guest or a prisoner?

SVEN

You will soon be part of the royal family! And mother to my children.

He reaches over to kiss her and she turns her head. Sven is insulted, and forces her head to kiss her. After a beat, he releases her and she turns her head, wiping her mouth.

SVEN

That's just a taste of what's in store for you later.

OTTAR

Sven! She's a noble lady, and valuable as a thane's daughter. She should be wedded - before she's bedded.

SVEN

But father... she's now mine.

OTTAR

(glancing at his wife)
True. But she should be yours by the law. That way no one can dispute your union.

SVEN

Alright then. When?

OTTAR

The first day of spring - Ostara. Still time to invite guests.

Sven looks to her now.

SVEN

Six days it is. After that, you'll be my lawfully wedded wife.

Sven stands up to toast to all again.

SVEN

Here's to my wedding to the beautiful Lady Ursa of Arhus.

All the men shout and cheer at that. The women look afraid. Ursa just stares at the table, then puts her hands to cover her face.

INT. URSA'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT

Ursa is wearing a long under gown. She's getting into her bed, and near her is her handmaiden, ERICA, only 14, already under the covers in her own bed. Ursa blows out the candle, and lies down, her face lit by a sliver of moonlight.

ERICA

Lady Ursa?

URSA

Yes Erica?

ERICA

What's going to happen to us?

(a beat)

URSA

If we pray hard to the gods, they might deliver us from here.

(a beat)

ERICA

Do you think your father's dead?

URSA

I don't know.

(a beat)

ERICA

And Olaf?

URSA

He may be the only one who can save us.

Ursa holds her talisman of Odin in her clasped hands, closes her eyes, and starts mouthing a prayer quietly.

URSA

Odin, Father of the gods, hear my prayer if you can. Spare my father. Protect and guide Olaf to me.

DISSOLVE:

FLASHBACK:

EXT. ARHUS TOWN - DAY

On a sunny day, Olaf and Hagen come riding horses into the town. They greet them very well, people cheering, waving and smiling.

They ride up to the largest LONG HOUSE, and meet Lord HOAG, 50, his Lady FREYA, 45, and URSA, 16. Olaf dismounts and greets Ursa first with a hug and kisses on her cheeks. Then meets the jarl with a hearty handshake and the queen with a bow.

HOAG

Hope you had no troubles, Olaf?

OLAF

We'll both be happy to rest after three days ride, your lordship.

Hagen dismounts too and comes to his side.

OLAF

Lord HOAG, let me introduce my brother, Hagen, keeping me company on my journey.

HOAG

Well, my boy. You're almost the age for marrying too.

The party around them laugh. Hagen is a bit embarrassed. Hoag shakes his hand too.

URSA

Come. Let's go inside. We have food and drink for you.

FREYA

(winking)

And soft pillows to sit on.

OLAF

My Ladyship. Your lovely daughter is all I need for soft comforts.

HOAG

Ah... don't get too comfortable... until after the wedding.

OLAF

Of course.

He takes Ursa by the hand and follows the father and mother into the house.

INT. HOAG'S LONG HOUSE -

Sitting at a long table, near the end where the king sits, Olaf and Hagen eat heartily. They pour some mead into horns and drink up.

Ursa looks across to Olaf and smiles at him. He smiles back.

Then a commotion at the door as Gunnar comes in and he's greeted by some men and maidens.

Olaf recognises him.

OLAF

GUNNAR!

He stands up and turns as Gunnar comes to meet him. They hug and shake hands roughly.

GUNNAR

Prince Olaf. Finally come back to see us.

OLAF

Yes. I can't miss my own wedding.

GUNNAR

Well, if we have a week, I'm sure we can do some hunting.

OLAF

Exactly what I was thinking.

(then to the father)

Is he going to join us?

HOAG

Of course.

(then to the servant)

Make a place for another guest.

OLAF

Sit here. Tell me what you've been doing.

Gunnar sits down beside Olaf, and grabs a horn and pours some mead for himself.

EXT. ARHUS STABLES - EVENING

Ursa and two young maidens come riding on horses to the stable. The sun is low and there is a nice red glow. Ursa and her friends dismount outside and walk the horses into the barn. Two stable hands come and lead the horses away.

STABLEHAND

Good ride, ladies?

URSA

Very nice. Thank you.

As Ursa grabs a lantern and leads her maids toward the house, Olaf suddenly appears from behind a corner. She is startled, but then very happy. She motions her two maidens to go on without her. When they are out of earshot, Olaf brings her close to him.

OLAF

I couldn't wait to get close to you again.

She moves in and hugs him tightly too.

URSA

It's been so long without you.

OLAF

I know, my love. I'm here now, and soon ...

URSA

Not soon enough.

OLAF

... we'll be together. Officially.

Olaf kisses her and wipes away a tear from her face.

OLAF

Nothing will keep us apart now.

URSA

Olaf. You're the only one I ever wanted.

They kiss again.

CAMERA on lantern glow of yellow light.

DISSOLVE:

INT. FEYHILD'S CAVE - MORNING **DAY1**

DISSOLVE TO: The yellow glow of the fire in the cave.

Olaf is sleeping on a fur lined bed. His leg is wrapped in cloths. His open and he looks around cautiously. Then sits up a bit, moaning at his leg.

FEYHILD

Good morning, hunter.

Feyhild is stirring a pot of porridge on the fire. Near her are a few wolves laying down.

OLAF

Are the wolves.. tame?

FEYHILD

Oh, yes. They're my friends. We live here together. I'm kind-of their den mother, you might say.

OLAF

And you are ...?

FEYHILD

Feyhild, sister to Raghild, who lives in the hills above Arhus.

OLAF

Ah. Your sister was good to me. I though you looked familiar.

Olaf tries to move again, then lifts the bandage from his leg, seeing ointment over the stitches.

OLAF

You... stitched me up? You're a healer too?

FEYHILD

(nods her head)

All the sisters can heal. Just as we can communicate to animals.

The witch pours out some porridge into a bowl for him (with a spoon in it). He takes it, thankful. He smells it.

FEYHILD

I always put some honey in it.

OLAF

Thank you.

He starts to eat it and sits back relaxing. He looks at the wolves. One sits up watching him. Another comes over to sniff him.

OLAF

Uh... nice wolf. I'm not food.

FEYHILD

She doesn't want to eat you...
just meet you.

Olaf smiles and pets the wolf.

OLAF

Can you tell me... what happened
to the prince's ships?

FEYHILD

(nods)

He sailed back to Jelling... and
he has your lady love, Ursa.

OLAF

You know about her?

FEYHILD

(nods)

And Hagen, your brother. Don't
worry, he's alright too.

OLAF

That's good to know. At least
they're alive and well.

FEYHILD

And you too. But you should rest
at least a day before traveling.

OLAF

You're probably right.

(a beat)

OLAF (cont)

What about Arhus? Did they kill many?

FEYHILD

I have heard from my sister. Ursa's father died of his wounds. But, Gunnar is healing today, like you.

OLAF

Ursa loved her father. That's bad news for her.

(a beat)

OLAF (cont)

How is Ursa, and Hagen? I feel responsible for both of them.

FEYHILD

Your brother is a prisoner at Jelling. They have no reason to kill him.

(a beat)

And Ursa is well, but she's to be wedded to Sven in seven days.

OLAF

I can not let that happen.

FEYHILD

With the gods on your side, I think you may be able to do just that.

OLAF

And how can that be?

FEYHILD

Anyone who can summon a Valkyrie, must have Odin's ear.

OLAF

Maybe.

EXT. HOUSE IN JELLING - EARLY MORNING

After a few people walk by the back of this house, the vertical wooden planks are kicked and one is broken.

Hagen peers through the crack, then he pushes the planks open enough to escape. He puts his head through, then squeezes his body sideways out the opening.

Then he lies low, go to the corner of the house, and looks for anyone coming. He sees a chance and sprints for the next house and then the next.

EXT. OUTSIDE JELLING, NORTH - DAY

After Hagen escapes, he's heading north, in the tree line above the sea shore.

His clothes are sparse and he starts shivering as he walks.

Behind him he hears the sounds of dogs BARKING far in the distance. Then he also hears wolves HOWLING, somewhere behind him.

EXT. FOREST ROAD, WOLF ATTACK -

Sven and four other vikings are riding easily after four running dogs. Then they hear the wolves HOWLING nearby. Sven calls after his dogs, who stop and look back. Sven stops his horse. He hears HOWLS again, and far ahead on the road three wolves appear.

SVEN

Damn. The dogs can't take on
wolves.

The dogs look and see the wolves coming for them, and return to the horses. They group, watching the wolves coming.

From the woods, at their side, a wolf leaps and takes one man off his horse, onto the ground. After the man falls, the horses all rear and freak out, going back. Another man falls off his horse, and now both get up and are back to back to face two wolves.

SVEN

Get on your horses! We have to get out of here.

The men look, then run for their horses.

The third man, still on his horse, readies a bow and arrow, and fires it at one wolf, hitting it, and it goes down.

That gives the two men on the ground enough time to get on their horses and ride back where they came. All four men and their dogs beat a retreat. The wolves come back to the hurt one and lick its wounds, whining. The wolf gets up and limps away.

EXT. ARHUS, BURIAL CAIRN - MORNING

A hundred viking people, men, women, and children, are gathered around this large pile of rocks, that mark where Ursa's father is buried. Many hold torches.

Gunnar stands with four other men, surrounding the Thane's wife, Lady Freya. On the cairn is a bundle of sticks.

She steps up to the large stone pile, stands a moment, brings out a white linen shirt, and places it onto the top, then falls to the ground, with grief, holding back tears.

Two men go and help her up and escort her back to a few yards away.

Then another man steps forward carrying a shield. He puts that also on the cairn and steps away.

Then Gunnar takes a torch, steps up and lights the wood on top, where it becomes a good size flame. Gunnar steps back a few paces, watching.

One man, CAIN, 35, steps up to him.

CAIN

Gunnar. We're all with you. Lord Hoag will be revenged.

GUNNAR

Good. (pause)
I was just wondering how Olaf is.

CAIN

I hope they are ALL alive and well.

GUNNAR

Of course.

They watch the fire burn the shield and the shirt.

FADE:

EXT. FOREST NEAR FEYHILD - EVENING

Hagen walks along in the dark, shivering. He hears a twig SNAP in the woods. He is worried, and afraid. He looks around, and then continues.

From up above a HOOT, that startles him. He looks up and sees an owl. He continues again.

As he walks, his head is forward but his eyes try to see behind him. He feels something is following. In the dark, we can see something is!

Finally he stops, listening, then turns to see: a wolf, 10 feet from him, just watching him, unafraid of him.

He backs up and then turns to walk. Off to his right he sees two others, walking in the woods, then there is one on his left too.

Up ahead, a wolf stands on the path.

Hagen stops. He turns and looks behind him. The wolf is stopped too. Suddenly a wolf nearby HOWLS. Then the others howl too.

Hagen turns and walks fast, then runs for his life. He sees a wolf ahead so goes left down a trail. Then at another fork in the trail, a wolf steers him the other way. Finally after a few minutes, he sees a light ahead.

He enters Feyhild's clearing, and sees a human figure in wolf skins in front of him. He stops suddenly, catching his breath.

HAGEN

Please. You got to help me.
There's wolves....

FEYHILD

I know. They're mine.

Hagen looks at her; he's confused and still afraid.

FEYHILD

Don't fret, Hagen. Come inside.

He's surprised that she knows him, but follows her.

INT. FEYHILD'S CAVE - NIGHT

REUNION. Hagen enters the fire-lit cave. He sees Olaf sitting down, watching him. He is suddenly very happy.

HAGEN

Olaf! I was worried about what happened to you. I thought perhaps the Valkyrie had taken you to Valhalla.

OLAF

No... she brought me here.

Olaf rises and hugs his brother. Olaf's leg is still sore.

OLAF (cont)

Hagen, this is Feyhild, a witch, or should I say: Seer. Her sister is the raven witch, Raghild.

Feyhild bows to them, then gets water, and pours it into the kettle to heat up.

FEYHILD

Sit down, young Lord. Seems like I'm fated to help you and your brother.

HAGEN

Thank you, Feyhild, I thought I was a dead man.

FEYHILD

MY wolves only attack when necessary. They don't hunt people.

HAGEN

Good.

Hagen looks over and sees the wolves sitting. He sits slowly down. Somehow they look less frightening now.

FADE:

INT. FEYHILD'S CAVE - NIGHT - RUNES

On a table in the cave, nine small runestones are thrown down from Feyhild. She arranges the five that landed face up, and then ponders them.

FEYHILD

Hmmm... this was your journey to get here. And these ... (pointing to the face-down tiles) ... are your future.

Four are face-down. The first two she turns over:

FEYHILD (cont)

Thurs, gebo : Giant and Gift.

Then the last two:

FEYHILD (cont)

Naud, kenaz : Delay and Revelation.

She studies it for a beat.

FEYHILD (cont)

Hmmm... Let me meditate a moment.

Feyhild reaches for her wolfskin cloak, puts it around her shoulders, then closes her eyes.

Olaf watches her a moment, then she speaks, keeping her eyes closed.

FEYHILD

You are called by Odin to become the new king. IF you have the courage, it is in your grasp.

(a beat)

There is a giant, who has one of the Swords of the Gods, and lives past the great Iron Woods to the west.

(a beat)

The giant is called Grim, and you must take his sword, Naglhring, to the King's hall and claim your right.

OLAF

(scoffing)

Is that all?

Feyhild comes out of her trance and opens her eyes.

FEYHILD

Yes. But you must do this before your queen is married.

OLAF

Where is this Giants cave?

FEYHILD

In a cave high in the mountains. Two days ride east.

OLAF

And the wedding is only five days away!

HAGEN

How will you get there?

They both look to Feyhild.

FEYHILD

Let me think about that.

Then outside the door, they hear a WOLF WHINING. The limping wolf is outside. Feyhild goes to the door.

FEYHILD

Sounds like one of my wolves are hurt.

She opens the door, and sees a broken arrow sticking out of it's right shoulder.

FEYHILD (cont)

Oh, by Frigga, it's Little Eyolf.

She motions her to come in, then unfurls a large, stained, coarse-weave blanket. She puts it down on the floor, and the wolf curls up on it.

The witch then gets some items from her shelf, under her arm, putting them on a counter, to mix together.

FEYHILD (cont)

I have try to heal her.

The two brothers look at each other. They don't know what to do.

OLAF

You take care of them?

FEYHILD

Up here in the forest, they are my family.

Feyhild sits down, and starts to work.

FADE:

INT. JELLING LONGHOUSE - DAY

DAY2

Ottar sits at the throne, waiting for Sven to arrive. Servants are cleaning the table. Someone is lighting candles. Sven enters, with two other warriors behind him.

OTTAR

Sven. Come here, son.

Sven sees him looking serious, so he obeys. He stands beside him.

SVEN

Father.

OTTAR

I have had a dream last night... a vision from the gods. Odin is indeed angry with you.

SVEN

Are you sure it was ...

OTTAR

Yes. Odin told me that you, the Prince, heir to the throne, must prove your worth.

SVEN

(nods)

How?

OTTAR

I saw you on this throne, with the Sword of Grim, and your new bride beside you.

SVEN

That is a good omen.

OTTAR

To get the sword, you must go to the mountain home of the giant named Grim, and take the sword.

SVEN

I remember old children's stories read to me. Do you really think the Sword of Grim exists?

OTTAR

The Gods still have power over us. That Valkyrie you saw was sent by Odin himself.

SVEN

You're right father. I accept the challenge.

OTTAR

(hugs him)

But, you must be back for your wedding. (a beat)
May Odin watch over you.

SVEN

If he wills it to be, then it shall be.

Ottar nods at him, and watches him walk away.

EXT. OUTSIDE FEYHILD'S CAVE - DAY

Feyhild, Olaf and Hagen are outside her cave, surrounded by a few wolves. Hagen and Olaf wear wolf-skin cloaks now.

FEYHILD

(to Hagen)

Remember, go to the sea, and you'll find a fisherman's boat. Take that north, and you should be at Arhus by tomorrow evening. It's the fastest way.

HAGEN

Thank you. And good luck, Olaf.

OLAF

You too, brother.

FEYHILD

It is Odin's will. Tell Gunnar he must try to stop the wedding.

He nods and walks away. They watch him leave, then the witch turns to Olaf and smiles.

FEYHILD

I have another way for you.

EXT. CLEARING NEAR WILD HORSES - DAY

Olaf walks beside Feyhild, into a small clearing. They are surrounded by her wolves. She stops and points ahead, onto a far hilltop.

FEYHILD

You see those?

Olaf strains and finally sees.

OLAF

They look like horses. Wild horses.

FEYHILD

They are. Go to the grey mare. Her name is SPURWOLF.

OLAF

I don't suppose she's tamed?

FEYHILD

No. But you are an expert
horseman, right?.

Feyhild produces a worn leather bridle from her cloak.

FEYHILD (cont)

Then take this enchanted bridle I
gave you, and capture her. She
will take you to the giant's cave.

Olaf examines the bridle. It is worn leather, but has
beautiful gold buttons on every clasp.

OLAF

Is there nothing else I need?

FEYHILD

Your wits and courage. But it case
that's not enough, I have made a
pouch of sleeping powder. You may
be able to put this in his drink.

Olaf takes it.

FEYHILD (cont)

And I ask that you do me one
favour in return for your kingdom.
In his treasures, you'll find a
golden horn. I want you to bring
that back to me.

OLAF

If I can get the sword, I should
be able to get the horn too.

FEYHILD

Your fate's in your hands now.
I'll pray to Odin for your safety.

Olaf hugs her, then walks off toward the clearing.

EXT. HILLTOP WITH WILD HORSES - DAY

Olaf enters the edge of the trees. There are five wild horses here, and they spot him. He coos softly and walks slowly. He reaches into his bag and pulls out an apple. He walks closer, talking to them.

OLAF

Wouldn't you like this delicious apple? Not too many apple trees up here.

They move away from him once. He has to turn and go after them again. He walks slowly to the grey mare, holding out the apple. He stops and takes a small bite of the apple.

OLAF

Mmmm. this is just excellent... juicy. Come on now. I'm your friend.

She stays as others shy away. He feeds the apple to this one, called SPURWOLF. Then he pets her nose and neck. He pulls out another apple and slowly pulls the bridle over her head. As she eats it he moves to her side and pats and talks to her.

OLAF

Well, Spurwolf, friend to the wolf-witch ; I hope you are my friend too.

He suddenly jumps up on her back, and she takes off running.

Sequence of her galloping through woods, tall grasses, and along mountain ridges and valleys.

Finally she's walking, and Olaf still rides her at a walking pace. It is now late in the day.

FADE:

EXT. FISHERMAN'S HUT - NIGHT

A small fishing boat is tied up to a short dock. It is moonlight only here. Hagen quietly looks around, goes onto the dock, and gets into the boat. On the shore there is one small light inside the hut. He paddles away quietly into the night.

EXT. OLAF'S FOREST CAMP - NIGHT

Pitch-back in the forest, lots of night forest sounds, and a small fire illuminating Olaf as he sits and warms himself. Near him is the horse tied to a tree.

Olaf looks over to the horse.

OLAF

Spurwolf. That's a good name for you.

Olaf wraps himself better in his cloak, and lies down now.

OLAF

Well. It's a long way to the top of the mountain. I'm going to sleep.

CAMERA PAN to the forest. Nearby, very quietly, is a grey wolf watching.

FADE:

EXT. ARHUS SHIPYARD - DAY

DAY3

Loud chopping and working of wood. Twenty men are working hard at fixing six fishing boats. Women are nearby sewing the large sails together. Men apply pitch. GUNNAR has his left shoulder in a sling and is walking around as a senior warrior and giving advice on the progress.

Lady Freya stands to one side, watching. Gunnar walks over to her to talk.

GUNNAR

We should be ready to sail tomorrow. We have to make sure they are sea worthy.

FREYA

I just hope it won't be too late for my Ursa, or Olaf.

GUNNAR

So do I. If I know Olaf, he'll try to escape.

Freya looks worried.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - DAY

Olaf is riding his grey horse, who gallops wildly through grasses. Finally he steers her back into some woods and she comes to a walk, snorting.

OLAF

OK, Spürwolf. Don't kill yourself getting there. Or me, for that matter.

They walk a bit again. Sven looks back over his shoulders across the valley. He sees nothing, so looks forward.

CAMERA stays on the FAR ridge. A figure: Sven, on his horse, is very small in frame. (tension)

EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE OF GIANT - LATE DAY

Olaf's horse is tied to a tree and Olaf is entering a shadowed cave entrance carrying an unlit torch and sword.

Then he comes upon a 12' tall door, made of heavy wood and iron straps. It is closed and an iron lock is hooked into heavy rings. Olaf sets down the torch on the rocks, goes to the door. He puts his ear to it and hears nothing, then peeks through cracks in the wood and sees nothing.

Olaf finds a large stone and cracks it hard on the lock, once, twice. Then he pauses to listen if this wakes anyone. He hits it once more and it breaks open, hanging there.

Olaf pulls the very heavy door open, and the hinges SQUEAK.

Gathering his torch again, he steps in past the door. He squats down to light the torch.

INT. CAVE OF GIANT - EVENING

Olaf rounds a corner and a little light comes from glowing embers of an old fire. To one side of this room, he sees a large hearth with big pots and wrought iron utensils.

Then a large bed, and a table which has cups, etc.

He looks up at the ceiling, maybe 25' up, to see a few large bird cages hanging.

Then he sees a few large chests nearby. He goes to the first and wiggles the latch. It is locked. As they all are. Olaf looks around and sees large old iron axe. It is very heavy for him, but he wields it, smashing on the lock, but it does not break.

Suddenly he hears a voice:

VOICE (o.c.)

You're not going to make all that noise again are you?

Olaf is quiet. He looks around. It is dark with only flickering shadows from his torch.

VOICE (o.c.)

There's a better way to open those chests.

Olaf now looks up and strains to look into the cages hanging. He sees a dwarf's face looking down on him. It is ALFREK, an old dwarf, 60? , 3 feet tall, also an expert metalsmith.

OLAF

Who are you?

ALFREK

I am Alfrek, an under-mountain dwarf. I was captured by Grim when I came looking for treasure too.

OLAF

Where did he go?

ALFREK

I don't know where he goes, but he comes home when it's dark, and that should be soon.

OLAF

Well, how should I unlock the chests?

ALFREK

The keys would work the best! Look on the fireplace mantle. There is a set of keys there.

Olaf climbs the chair, then the table and leaps over onto above the fireplace onto the mantle. He grabs it by the ledge, and pulls himself up. He finds a ring of six or so keys, and puts them into his pocket.

He leaps back onto the table, and jumps to the ground.

OLAF

Thanks, friend.

ALFREK

You could help free me as a token of your thanks.

OLAF

Let's first see if the keys work on the chests.

Olaf goes through a few keys and then one DOES open the first chest. Olaf then lifts the lid and sees very nice FURS. He lifts them and feels around under... only furs.

OLAF

There are only furs in this one.

ALFREK

Try another.

Olaf uses the keys and opens the second one. He lifts the lid and sees books.

OLAF

This one has books.

ALFREK

For some, like wizards, those are worth more than gold.

OLAF

I need to find Grim's sword.

ALFREK

Oh? You looking for the Naglhring? What would you do with one of the swords of the gods?

OLAF

Odin has chosen me to be the next king.

ALFREK

I see. You better find it then.
Try the last one.

Olaf finds the key to open the last chest. He then lifts the lid and sees gold items glittering at him. He picks up the torch, and shines it inside. There are two silver swords (with jewels), crowns, coins, and gold metal boxes, even a golden horn.

OLAF

Found it! There are a two swords here... but which one is Grim's sword?

ALFREK

Rescue me from this bird cage and I'll show you.

OLAF

Can I trust you?

ALFREK

The word of a dwarf should be enough for you. It was my brothers and I who made his sword. We are goldsmiths to the Gods themselves.

OLAF

You made Naglhring?

ALFREK

Yes, with Dwalin. And I can tell you it took us six months to make!

OLAF

Alright, I will try to throw you a rope or something.

Olaf pulls out some rope from his carrying bag. Suddenly - from behind Olaf, Sven enters the torch light.

SVEN

Don't worry about him.

Olaf turns quickly and sees Sven.

OLAF

SVEN!

Olaf pulls out his sword to duel with him, as does Sven.

SVEN

Why are you here Olaf? Odin sent me to get the sword, to prove my worthiness as the new king.

OLAF

Then the joke is on both of us, because I am also called by Odin.

SVEN

Only one way to resolve this.

Sven then attacks hard, and presses Olaf back with broadsword hits. Neither man has a shield, so hits with sword only. Sven cuts Olaf in his mail shirt, but Olaf also gets in a good hit, but the wounds they give are superficial.

Olaf must jump a few times, and he starts to limp on his wounded leg. While they fight, Sven talks:

SVEN

How's the leg? Still healing?

Sven gets close enough to kick Olaf's leg, bringing him down. Sven traps Olaf's sword and swats away his sword. He puts his sword tip to his throat.

SVEN

I should kill you, but I won't risk angering Odin again.

He looks around and sees the rope that Olaf had.

LATER -

Sven finishes tying up Olaf, then stands up.

SVEN

I'll leave you here for the giant. That way your blood is not on my hands. Now about the sword ...

Sven goes to the chest and picks up the two silver swords, one in each hand. He looks up at the dwarf.

SVEN

Now which one is Naglhring?

ALFREK

I know you. You're Sven, Prince.
But why should I tell you? At
least Olaf was going to free me.

SVEN

Well. Then I'll just take both
swords, AND some gold. Hahaha.

Sven takes a bag of gold, puts both swords into his belt, then closes the chests, locking them.

SVEN

We don't want the Giant to know
these are gone.

(then facing them both)

I leave you both to your fates.

Sven walks off quickly, leaving them there: Olaf tied up on the ground, Alfrek still in his cage. Olaf calls after him:

OLAF

When I see you again, it will be
to kill you.

(then louder)

Odin wills it!

Then it is dark and quiet again in here. Olaf talks quietly to the dwarf.

OLAF

If he didn't tie me so tightly, I
could get my... dagger.

He struggles to get the dagger from his boot, but can't get to it.

OLAF (cont)

I welcome any ideas you have to
get us out of here.

ALFREK

When I think of something, I'll
let you know.

They sit there in the dark, waiting.

EXT. ARHUS SHORE - EVENING

An OLD FISHERMAN is checking his net, when a small boat arrives at the dock. It is HAGEN. The fisherman goes over to him.

FISHERMAN

Stranger to these shores, who are
you?

HAGEN

I am Hagen, son of Thane Haleg.

FISHERMAN

A young noble? Come on up here
then.

He reaches down and helps him out of his boat.

INT. ARHUS LONG HOUSE - EVENING

It is supper and everyone is eating here. Gunnar sits near the head of the table, and they leave the Thane's seat unoccupied. A plate is served at Hoag's space.

Gunnar stands up and reaches over and pours mead into the large mug there.

GUNNAR

For the Lord Thane.

FREYA

Thank you, Gunnar.

Then in the door comes Hagen. Wrapped tightly in his wolf-furs.

Gunnar and Cain both rise as they see him enter.

CAIN

Young lord, Hagen! How came you to return to us?

HAGEN

Cain, and Gunnar ! So good to be here after a day on the sea.

Hagen goes and stands by the fire.

GUNNAR

On the sea? Of course... he should get warm. Probably near frozen.

Gunnar pours another drink in a horn and gives it to him.

GUNNAR

Tell us, how you came to be here.

FREYA

And what news of Ursa?

Hagen drinks from the horn, and goes around the fire to face them.

HAGEN

Ursa and I were captured by Sven, and taken to the king's hall. She is to be married to Sven on Ostara, only three days from now.

FREYA

That was the wedding day for Ursa's marriage to Olaf!

HAGEN

(nodding)

Olaf escaped by praying to ODIN! The father above sent a Valkyrie and scooped him up out of the Drakkar before my eyes!

CAIN

Blessed by the Gods.

HAGEN

I later escaped and was chased by wolves until I found the wolf-witch. She sent me here by sea,

and sends Olaf to the giant's mountain.

GUNNAR

By Odin! What does he need to do there?

HAGEN

He must steal Grim's sword, and return to the king's hall, where he will become KING.

FREYA

Who tells you such a tall tale?

HAGEN

The witch, Raghild. She saw it when she cast the runes.

Cain turns to Freya.

CAIN

It could be the will of Odin.

GUNNAR

Sven is cursed to death. We shall have our revenge.

They all drink up and cheer.

GUNNAR

Tomorrow, we sail to Jelling, and with Odin's help, we'll free Ursa and help put Olaf on the throne!

CAIN

Here, here!

They cheer even louder.

INT. CAVE OF GIANT - EVENING

Olaf is almost asleep, and falling over, when he hears the loud SQUEAKING of the big doors. Then the voice of the giant GRIM, upset that the lock is busted.

GRIM

Who broke my lock? If I find a thief here his head will decorate my front door!

Through the dark hall, the giant GRIM comes. He's 12' tall, and wears many small furs all stitched together. He brings a large sack over his shoulder, and on his big belt is a golden hilt dagger in a sheath. He wears other items of gold where possible.

He enters the dark room and sees Olaf on the floor, tied up. He comes close and nudges him with his foot.

GRIM

You're my thief. But I caught you.
Haha.

Then Grim is a bit confused at the situation.

GRIM (cont)

But I don't have to tie you up,
because you're already tied up.

At that, Grim picks him up and checks his ropes. Then he hangs him upside down and shakes him.

GRIM

Let's see what falls out of the tree! Hahah.

Most items come off Olaf, but not the keys. Grim sets him down on the table top to watch him.

GRIM

What's your name? And where are you from?

Grim grabs large logs nearby and throws them on the coals of the fire. Then blows on it until it lights up in flames.

OLAF

I am Olaf, and I'm from the western sea.

GRIM

And did you come here to steal my treasures?

He looks over at the chests, and they are all closed.

OLAF

Yes, but I got tangled up in my ropes before I could do anything.

Grim thinks about that a minute to see if he'd believe it. Grim then laughs at the man.

GRIM

Haha. I don't know how one can tangle himself so much in ropes, but you're caught now! And now you won't escape.

Grim stands up from the fire and lets down a large iron cage that is suspended from the ceiling with a long heavy rope. It is the style of a 4 foot tall round top bird cage. It CLANGS to the floor and Grim opens the door and sweeps out some old bones and some furs in there.

Olaf sees this and is very worried.

Grim puts the furs back in the cage, then reaches for Olaf. He starts untying the ropes, and then gives up and takes out his golden dagger (which is sword length to Olaf) and CUTS the ropes.

GRIM

If you run away, I'll stomp you!
And then maybe crush your legs.

OLAF

I'm not going anywhere.

Grim puts him in the cage, locks the door, then pulls on the rope and the cage rises all the way to the 25' ceiling, about 10' away from the dwarfs cage.

GRIM

Now, you stay up there, while I make my supper.

Grim goes to his bag and opens it revealing a dead deer.

GRIM (cont)

You're luck that today I already have some meat, or I'd have to eat you. Hahaha.

Then Grim goes back to poking the fire with a spear.

ON OLAF: He's in the cage now, and looks across to the dwarf, and around at the ropes holding his cage. They whisper to each other.

OLAF

Well, friend. Now we're both up here.

He gets his dagger out from his boot and then tries at the lock to open it.

ALFREK

What good will that do?

GRIM

I hear you chattering up there.
Making friends with my littlest pet?

They don't answer him, just look down. They just motion with hands to 'shhh'.

Olaf watches the giant get the deer ready on a log spit, tie its legs and roast him like a chicken, turning the log, then basting it with mead from his mug.

Then Grim finishes his mug of drink and sets the spit on a hook, gets a barrel, and smashes one side open, and pours into his own custom barrel for mug.

Olaf suddenly remembers the pouch of sleeping powder. He reaches into a pocket and sees it.

Alfrek sees him with this and watches, very interested.

Olaf unties the pouch so it is open, then very carefully dangles his arm outside the cage, to get closer to the table top. He practices a few wings, then prays under his breath:

OLAF

Odin. Hear me. Make this work.

Then Olaf throws the pouch and it lands, splash into the mug, and the giant was too distracted with his turning of the spit to notice.

Alfrek's eyes are wide. He is suddenly very happy, smiling.

Olaf looks over at the dwarf. He is so happy too. Now he just sits back and watches Grim take a few more deep drinks of his barrel.

He pours the last of it on the deer, and sees a small leather pouch come out.

GRIM

What's this? Something fall in my mug?

Grim goes to stand up to look into Olaf's cage. But his vision gets blurry and he squints his eyes a few times, then rubs them.

GRIM

I'm so tired...

Grim tries to sit but misses, hitting the floor, and he falls to one side, then just stops there, and falls asleep, breathing heavy.

ALFREK

Well done! You are a prince!

OLAF

Magic powder from a witch. Seems to work fine.

ALFREK

But how long will he sleep?

OLAF

I don't know... we've got to get out of here.

Olaf looks at their cages again.

OLAF

Can you pick these locks? If I gave you my dagger?

ALFREK

Certainly. It was my fellow dwarves who made these locks.

OLAF

Good. Then I'll swing over to you
and you can unlock yours, then
mine.

Olaf crouches in his cage and starts swinging it. Soon it
swings enough to almost touch Alfrek's cage. He jumps and
grabs the other cage with two hands.

OLAF

Now, tie them together.

Alfrek looks around his cage, then takes off his belt and
straps it around the vertical bars. Olaf takes out his
dagger again and almost hands it to Alfrek.

OLAF

I'm trusting you.

ALFREK

You don't seem to...

OLAF

In all the stories I've heard,
dwarves try to trick men.

ALFREK

But, if I give my word - you can
count on it.

OLAF

Alright then...

Olaf waits a moment.

ALFREK

Fine! I promise to help you out to
the best of my abilities. No
tricks.

OLAF

That's good enough for me.

Olaf then gives him the dagger. Alfrek quickly unlocks the
lock, and then climbs carefully over the cages toward
Olaf's cage door.

ALFREK

I hate this. I must have my feet firmly on the ground. I'm not a bloody bird.

He slips a bit and Olaf grabs his arm, saving him.

OLAF

Be careful!

ALFREK

I'm trying! I don't WANT to die.

He finally gets to the lock on Olaf's cage and opens it with the dagger. The door swings open and Olaf pulls Alfrek inside. They collapse on the floor.

Alfrek finally smiles at him.

ALFREK

I think adventure is for the young. Like you.

Olaf smiles back, gets up and goes to the open door.

OLAF

You're right. I'll go down, then get you down.

Olaf then climbs around his cage, to the side where the rope is on a pulley. He reaches up and grabs the rope, then slowly climbs down the rope, finally hitting the ground.

Alfrek is above watching.

ALFREK

Come on, get me down.

OLAF

Wait. I don't trust Grim. If he wakes he'll kill us... or come after us.

Olaf looks and hesitates.

ALFREK

Then what do you wait for?

OLAF

Don't they have magic? - I mean,
their heads re-attach or
something?

ALFREK

You're right. But not if you use a
sword of the Gods.

OLAF

...If I had one. Sven took them..

ALFREK

Ah, but did you notice Grim's
dagger? (a beat)
Yes. That's the sword of Grim, The
Naglhiring!

OLAF

So you tricked Sven?

ALFREK

Not at all. He already knew the
answers he wanted.

Olaf goes over to the sleeping giant and unties the
scabbard with magic sword at his side. He ties it to his
own belt. Then he climbs up slowly onto the table.

He has the sword in two hands and raises it over his head.
The giant is sleeping face down on the table. Olaf aims for
his neck and with one HARD swipe, the giant's head is cut
off! It rolls off the table and hits the floor.

The whole cave shudders and shakes a bit.

Olaf wipes his sword, replaces it in the scabbard and then
leaps off the table.

OLAF

It's done. He won't be coming
after us.

ALFREK

Now get me down.

OLAF

Of course.

Olaf then unties the rope to the cage carefully from the wall. Then he can hardly hold it as it is heavy. He rises off the floor and then hooks the rope back onto the wall hook, and lets the rope down with that for leverage.

The cage hits the floor softly, and Alfrek jumps out, and does a little dance jig - he's so happy.

ALFREK

Finally! On the ground again.
Oh ... and I'm so thirsty...

Alfrek goes to drink water from a water barrel, using a giant-sized ladle.

Olaf goes to the treasure chest again, and gathers his old shoulder bag. He then unlocks the chest.

OLAF

I also promised the witch. I must bring her the golden horn.

ALFREK

The horn of Heimdall? That's very powerful magic.

OLAF

(unlocking the chest)
That may be, but I promised.

He opens it and takes the horn, on a golden chain, and puts it over one shoulder and under his cloak. The dwarf comes to the open chest and sees the gold. His eyes light up with greed.

ALFREK

We can't leave this here.

OLAF

Why not?

ALFREK

Anyone else can just come and take it.

OLAF

Well, it's probably too heavy to carry.

Alfrek looks at it and thinks a moment.

ALFREK

Wait.... maybe you help me take this, and I help you.

Alfrek goes to one side and with an effort he lifts one half of the chest a foot off the ground.

ALFREK

With two of us, we can take it to under-mountain.

OLAF

The land of Dwarves? But wouldn't I be too large or something? What about the other ... dwarves?

Alfrek stares at the chest and then to Olaf.

ALFREK

If you come with me, I'll get you to the east sea in safety and speed. You'll be back in half the time.

Olaf looks into the chest too and likes it.

OLAF

Alright, but I'll take a bag of gold for my efforts.

Alfrek is annoyed, but reluctantly gives in.

ALFREK

That's a deal.

They shake hands. Olaf takes the bag of gold and ties it to his waist belt.

OLAF

I'll take it now... in case you change your mind later.

Alfrek looks at him with a scowl. They close the chest.

EXT. ARHUS SHIPYARD - PRE-DAWN

DAY4

A few viking men are here, asleep, wrapped in furs. The boats are finished, fresh color wood, and new brown/ black tar.

DISSOLVE:

INT. ARHUS MAIN HALL - MORNING

Many men are here, maybe 40, eating bowls of porridge-like breakfast. Cain is the lead man now in Arhus. Gunnar and Hagen are beside him. Men are grumbling about the food.

VIKING MAN

It's not the same as meat. It's tasteless.

CAIN

Eat your fill! All of you. We'll need our strength.

Cain sits down and eats some gruel too. And makes a yuck face. He talks to Gunnar quieter.

CAIN

It may take us almost two days to go all the way to Jelling. At least this is a hot meal.

GUNNAR

Yes. It is hot. That's all I can say for it.

Gunnar laughs. Hagen smiles.

INT. CAVERN PATH -

Olaf and Alfrek carry the chest and descend a dark path with stalagmites and stalactites above them. Alfrek is in front, and has a torch in one hand.

Olaf struggles with the weight of the chest.

OLAF

You said you could get me out of here in half the time. That could be true, BUT, not when we're carrying this chest.

ALFREK

Come on. Just another 10 minutes.

OLAF

(grunting with the weight)
I don't know how you talked me
into this.

ALFREK

It was the gold that convinced
you.

OLAF

Yes. Always gold that men lose
their purpose.

ALFREK

Ah.. don't worry. We're almost
there.

The struggle a bit and go down another direction.

DISSOLVE:

INT. ABANDONED DWARVES MINES -

Olaf and Alfrek carry the chest into a small clearing.
There are broken mine carts and piles of dirt. On the floor
are some old wooden tracks. They set the chest down. Olaf
sits on it, resting.

OLAF

My arms are getting too tired. I
couldn't even wield my sword if I
had to.

ALFREK

Ah.. don't worry. There's nothing
down here ... except dwarves.

Alfrek sits on other end of chest. A short moment of rest.

ALFREK

Now, if I can get one of these
carts working, we won't have to
carry the chest.

OLAF

That's a bloody good idea.

Alfrek goes to the turned over carts, and examines them. He overturns one and looks at the wheels.

ALFREK

I think this one is fixable. But
I'll remove the bucket.

OLAF

(massaging his arms)
I'll wait... no problem.
(a beat)
Hey, was this an old mine?

ALFREK

Yes. A gold mine. Abandoned when
the gold finally ran out.

Alfrek works on the cart, exchanging a wheel with another cart, and removing the bucket to make a flat panel. He reminisces about the old days.

ALFREK

I remember the old days here. It
was about twenty years ago. You
would have seen these shafts
crowded with dwarves, chipping
away at the rock walls.

Now ... the best mining is a few
leagues to the north. That's where
there's rubies and diamonds. Which
are very nice when cut and
polished, but...

OLAF

...but not as nice as gold.

ALFREK

(smiling)
There's something about gold that
just pleases us... I mean dwarves.
Maybe because we get to work it
into jewelry, or whatever we want.

OLAF

Like this sword. (a beat)

This is so beautiful. I think the dwarves were given the gift of metalworking by the Gods.

ALFREK

That's what they say. (a beat)

OK. The wheel is fixed. I think it'll work fine. Give me a hand.

They turn the cart onto the tracks and the cart seems fine.

OLAF

Alfrek. You're a genius.

CUT:

INT. MINE SHAFT RIDE -

Riding on the old double mine rail tracks in the dark, from a distance, Alfrek sits on the chest in front, and holds a torch out front. Olaf is in back. As they pass by, traveling at a good speed, Olaf goes 'woo hoo!'.

ON OLAF: Olaf looks ahead, wind in his face, he laughs:

OLAF

Alfrek! I can't help but laugh. It makes my stomach move, but I feel so ... free!

ALFREK

(nodding)

It's a real experience to ride the rails...

FAR SHOT: Olaf and Alfrek, approach, then pass by quickly, and descend down a mine shaft, into the distance.

EXT. CAIN'S BOATS - LATE DAY.

Six fishing boats, filled with 15 men in each, rowing against the wind. The water is a bit choppy, and skies are grey. Gunnar, Hagen and Cain are in the leading boat. A slight wind and some spray hits their faces as they look ahead. Hagen and Gunnar talk to Cain.

HAGEN

We're only about half way.

GUNNAR

He's right. We should rest and give the men some food.

CAIN

All right.

Cain, turns from facing forward to the rowing men in the boat. He puts up his hands.

CAIN

Stop rowing.

The men stop and bring their oars into their boat. The other six boats following do the same.

On his boat, one man at the rear, brings forth some sacks of breads and dried meats, and the food is passed down to the men. They also bring out a few wineskins and drink.

Cain turns back to address Gunnar and Hagen:

CAIN

Maybe we should go to shore for the night.

HAGEN

The wedding is not until two days.

GUNNAR

He's right. We'll still be there by late tomorrow.

CAIN

OK. We'll go to shore.

INT. UNDERMOUNTAIN FORK IN ROAD -

Olaf is behind the cart, pushing it ahead, on the tracks, and the ground is level. Alfrek is sitting on the front holding the torch. They come onto a fork in the track - going left and right.

ALFREK

Hold up!

Olaf stops pushing and rests against the chest on the cart, as Alfrek jumps off. He then stares down both dark passages. Far down the left he can see very slight light. He points and looks back at Olaf.

ALFREK

There. We go left. Come on, we gotta change the cart onto the other track.

They lift the heavy chest off the wheels and put it on the ground.

OLAF

What's that up ahead?

ALFREK

That's one of the outer villages.

They lift the flat cart with wheels and carry it to the left passage tracks and set it down.

OLAF

Good. Can we leave the gold there?

ALFREK

Yes. I think we should. I'll talk to the clan chief.

The two of them carry the heavy gold chest and put it back onto the wheels again.

OLAF

OK. Now it's your turn to push me for a while.

ALFREK

What? I can't come to a village and be seen pushing you.

OLAF

Haha. Would that be embarrassing? Alright. Just go most of the way, then I'll push with you.

Alfrek grumbles and starts pushing as Olaf smiles and looks ahead of the cart.

INT. UNDERMOUNTAIN VILLAGE, BARONA -

The two of them are pushing and the cart comes into a large cavern. There are about twenty rectangular doors cut all around into the rock, on many levels, with stone steps leading up to the levels or doors. Most of these have small square windows that have a yellow light glowing.

Along one row of five, there are signs out front with cobbler, mercantile, brewery, etc. There are some small wagons and even two ponies hitched to a post.

As they push the cart closer to the homes and shops, a dwarf, sitting outside on a chair sees them. He stands up quickly. He is VALNER, 30, big and brawny.

VALNER

Who goes there? A MAN! Hey ho! A MAN comes!

Many others now come out of their doors, grabbing axes, and some with picks or hammers.

Alfrek steps in front of Olaf as they stop the cart and wait, for the dwarves to come.

The first dwarf to reach them is Valner. He recognises Alfrek, and nods at him, eyeing the man warily.

VALNER

Alfrek? How do you come to be in the upper reaches?

ALFREK

I was captured by GRIM. (a beat)
Who is the Clan Chief here?

VALNER

That's SORREL. He's coming now.
So... captured by Grim, the giant.
You're lucky to have escaped.

The others come around, and they hear the name 'Grim'. They echo it passing it along to others.

ALFREK

I owe my life to this man, Olaf.

Valner folds his arms and goes 'HMMF'. By now, about ten others are around them, listening. Finally the Clan Chief arrives and stands beside Valner: it is SORREL, also 30, and he too folds his arms.

SORREL

I am the chief here.

VALNER

Sorrel... this is Alfrek, one of the famous Brisling brothers.

SORREL

Good to meet you then. But who is this?

He looks to Olaf, who quickly bows long and low. The dwarves are still uncertain about him.

ALFREK

This is Olaf. He seems destined to be the new king of these lands.

OLAF

Thank you for allowing me passage through the under mountain.

Everyone around is impressed by his courtesy. Sorrel and Valner exchange glances.

ALFREK

This man saved my life, and he has killed Grim...

SORREL

Not an easy task.

ALFREK (cont)

... using the Sword of Kings.

Olaf pulls out the sword and shows it to them all.

VALNER

Ah... a treasure seeker! That's good.

SORREL

But you do not seek treasure from our world, right?

OLAF

No. Just safe passage. Besides ...

ALFREK

Yes... this here is now MY
treasure chest.

He motions to the chest on wheels.

ALFREK

Now before I show anyone the
treasure, I trust you all to honor
my claim. With this man, I brought
it all the way down here.

SORREL

We honor that claim. Go ahead.
Show us.

Alfrek opens the chest, lifts the lid and the glow of GOLD
shines on their faces, and long beards. All eyes go wide,
and they smile.

ALFREK

Now... all we need is a good rest
here, and perhaps a safe place for
this treasure...

SORREL

Come to the BARONA HALL. May it
never be said that we turn away an
earth brother from our village.

ALFREK

Thank you, brothers. We can only
stay a short while, then Olaf must
be taken to the east valley.

They close the lid and move the cart further into the town
as they talk. Sorrel and Alfrek talk:

ALFREK

I knew how much my fellows would
appreciate such a treasure.

SORREL

Do you think you took all the
treasures?

ALFREK

No. But I think we took all the gold.

Sorrel looks disappointed. A few dwarves look suspicious at the stranger - the man from the surface.

INT. URSA'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT

Ursa gets under covers in her bed and blows out the single candle. Darkness now in this room with only moonlight. Ursa lies in her bed, eyes open, staring up. She tosses a bit and turns to the other bed in the room, where her young girl friend ERICA is lying.

URSA

Oh Erica. I don't know if I'll be strong enough to resist him. How can they force me to marry him? ... I hate him.

ERICA

My lady. I don't know. Have you heard anything about your Olaf?

URSA

Nothing. I begin to wonder... do the gods listen to my prayers?

They hear a knock at the door. Then a woman enters, carrying a candle. It is the queen, EMMA. She comes close to Ursa's bedside.

EMMA

My dear girl.

Ursa says nothing to her. She waits to hear her out.

EMMA (cont)

You may not think you can trust me, but I am your friend. My husband, the king, thinks the old ways of stealing women is approved by the gods. But now, he's been having very bad dreams, and he thinks Sven may have brought a

curse to our household. I think it will curse us.

URSA

If my father is dead, then I must revenge my father. You understand?

EMMA

We don't know. Revenge begets revenge. But I have an idea to help you escape.

URSA

Escape? To where? If I could only be with my true love ... OLAF.

EMMA

When the time is right, come with me. I'll get you somewhere safe.

URSA

Why are you doing this?

EMMA

Because I was just like you.

Ursa looks at her a moment, then lies back down. Emma leaves the room and closes the door.

ERICA

Do you think that's true?

URSA

It just might be.

INT. BARONA DWARVES HALL -

About thirty dwarves are here, drinking, and some singing. They are shouting and laughing, spilling their mead from horns.

Alfrek is the center of attention, and the large treasure chest is in front of him.

Olaf is sleeping, with his head on the table, and a tankard of ale beside him.

Alfrek still toasts with other dwarves...

ALFREK

To my dark brothers of undermountain. Tonight I bring back some precious gold that has left our mountain. Haha.

VALNER

To the GOLD!

SORREL

What about him? I thought he was in a hurry.

Alfrek looks over and sees the man sleeping.

ALFREK

He's doesn't look to be in much of a hurry now , haha. Maybe the best thing for him is to sleep now. For me, I also would welcome a night's sleep in a good feather bed.

They hear a commotion outside the hall.

SORREL

What is that now?

They get up to go to the door when the door opens, and ten more dwarves outside come in, escorting a tall woman. It is the Wolf-witch, FEYHILD. She enters and bows to meet them.

FEYHILD

Good people. Respected dwarves. I have come to take my hero back to the upper world.

SORREL

Ah. Feyhild, the wise. Welcome to our hall.

Feyhild steps closer and looks at the sleeping Olaf.

FEYHILD

Is this my hero? Drunk and sleeping?

VALNER

I think he really likes our mead.
He almost kept up with us, haha.

FEYHILD

Can I see him?

SORREL

Surely. Come closer.

She lifts his head, examines him, listens to him breathe.
She examines the sword and also sees the horn on a golden
chain around his body.

FEYHILD

Very good. He's got the sword and
the horn he came for.

Then she looks over to Alfrek.

FEYHILD (cont)

And you were the one who helped
him?

Alfrek bows to the witch.

ALFREK

I helped him to unlock his cage,
but it was he who truly saved me.

FEYHILD

(bowing to all)

Well, my lords, if you can carry
him to my wagon, we will leave
your world.

VALNER

Here, here. This is no place for
them. The sooner the better.

SORREL

Yes. With the man gone, Alfrek can
stay a while, and spend some gold.

Valner reaches over and starts to lift him. A few other
dwarves help him, and soon he's carried on the shoulders of
eight dwarves. They march him out the door.

INT. UNDERMOUNTAIN VILLAGE, BARONA -

Feyhild walks slowly to the edge of the town, surrounded by a crowd of dwarves. From windows, children and women watch too. A few large dogs come to see. Olaf is carried on their shoulders. They pass ponies tied up and small wagons.

They arrive at Feyhild's wagon: also the scale used by dwarves, but long enough to hold two people. It is harnessed to four of her GREY WOLVES. It has two candle lanterns tied on the front for light.

She leads them, and puts her hand out to calm the wolves, who lie down and keep their heads down. The dwarves walk past and put Olaf in the wagon.

Feyhild sits in the wagon too, and holds Olaf in her arms, getting comfortable.

ALFREK

Good speed, lady. And thank Olaf one more time for me.

FEYHILD

Come and see me again Alfrek. I may have other treasures for you.

ALFREK

I may do that ... if you keep your wolves tame.

She pulls on reins and the wolves get up. They turn around the wagon and then they start to run. She looks back.

FEYHILD

May Odin bless you for your help.

She's on her way and the dwarves head back to the hall.

INT. UNDERMOUNTAIN ROAD -

Wolves pulling the wagon at a running pace, and traveling through a series of subterranean roads and tunnels, most of which are dark. They pass one intersection that has a brazier of light to illuminate the road.

Finally she comes to a slope and goes down, then curves a bit. The wagon comes up to a large stone wall with giant iron hinges and chains seen from this side.

They stop and she gets out, goes to the wall nearby and pulls a lever. The huge stone doors open on pivots. She sits back in the wagon and they continue.

From OUTSIDE:

It is night, a moon and stars light the forest. As soon as they leave the stone doors, they close behind them and seal. From outside the entrance is hard to recognize, and look like it's only a rocky face of the mountain.

Feyhild talks to Olaf, even though he's unconscious. She wraps him better in the cloak.

FEYHILD

Odin... and I, watch over you.

They begin again and go down a forest path in the dark.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. JELLING HALL - MORNING

Only a few people are awake so early in this town. Some get basins of water, others carry wood. In the distance we see Sven riding to the town. He carries a silver sword in one hand, over his head. He shouts to wake people as he rides slowly through the town to the hall.

SVEN

Your prince has returned! I have the Sword of the Gods. Not just one, but TWO! Get ready for tomorrow. I'll be married and then soon ... my coronation!

From within the hall, the king, OTTAR, looks out the doors.

OTTAR

What's all that noise?

He squints and can see Sven in the distance, shouting, and many people now are following him, wrapped in their cloaks.

Then EMMA the queen also comes outside to look.

OTTAR

(smiling)
It's our son. The prince. He has
faced the giant and returned.

EMMA

At least he's still alive.

OTTAR

Doesn't he look so handsome and
royal? That's the way I looked at
his age.

EMMA

(uninterested)

Yes. I remember.

She turns and goes back inside. Ottar waits. Sven arrives.

SVEN

Look father! I have TWO of the
swords of the Gods.

OTTAR

You've outdone yourself, Sven.
Come down and have the morning
meal. You must be famished.

Sven dismounts and steps up to the king, hugging him.

SVEN

Let's eat. Then I tell you all
about it.

They enter the hall.

DISSOLVE:

INT. JELLING HALL - MORNING MEAL

LATER: The food is mostly eaten. It is cooked eggs and
strips of meat, and bread with jams. They have eaten well.

Sven sits in the chair beside his father, at the high table
at the back of the hall. Emma sits beside her husband, and
Ursa sits beside Sven.

SVEN

Everything I ever wanted, right
here. My beautiful wife, and the
kingdom before me.

OTTAR

Hey... you're not king yet! Soon ... after your marriage.

A moment passes as the two men sit back to rest, taking a big drink from their tankards.

OTTAR

So tell us... what did the giant look like? And how did you find the two swords?

SVEN

Well... the giant was...very tall. But it was dark and I did not see much of him.

OTTAR

How did you get past him?

SVEN

He was... sleeping.

OTTAR

Sleeping? So there was no fighting?

SVEN

I thought... if Odin wants him to live, then I will spare him.

EMMA

That's good thinking. We don't want to anger the gods.

OTTAR

So you crept in and stole the swords? Was there other treasure?

SVEN

Yes. A whole chest of gold. But it would be far too heavy for me to bring it back. Oh. And I got this bag of gold.

Sven unties a small leather bag at his waist. He opens the drawstrings and empties it on the table. It is filled with coins and nuggets.

Everyone sitting stares at the gold a moment.

SVEN

How much is here, would you say
father? Enough to buy myself a
village?

OTTAR

That's a king's ransom. But I
wonder... (aside) why the
swords aren't made of gold?

Sven looks over at Ursa. She looks skeptically at the pile
of gold.

SVEN

What do you think, my bride to be?

URSA

I think money isn't everything.

SVEN

(suddenly angry)
Then what else would you have?

URSA

Love. And my family.

SVEN

You'll learn to love me, and this
IS your family now.

Ursa looks away, sad.

OTTAR

Don't you mind her. This is a
great day for you.

Ottar then changes the subject. He stands.

OTTAR (cont)

And this is exactly what I've seen
in my dreams. You sitting here,
with your bride, and the sword of
the gods at your side.

SVEN

Then this IS Odin's will. He looks favorably on us now.

OTTAR

Here, here.

The two men drink, and the two women exchange a long look.

INT. FEYHILD'S CAVE - MORNING

Olaf wakes up with a jerk, sitting up quickly. He's on a bed, lying on sheepskins, and he suddenly feels a pounding in his head. He puts his hand to his forehead and groans.

FEYHILD

Ah. You're awake finally.

She pours hot water into a mug.

OLAF

But I wish I wasn't. I have a bad headache.

FEYHILD

Too much dwarven mead. Here drink this.

She passes him the mug and he sniffs it. It smells strong, but he still drinks it.

Suddenly he remembers his adventure. He looks for the sword all around him.

OLAF

Where's the sword? Did the dwarves take it?

FEYHILD

(pointing to a wall)
It's there.

Olaf sighs, relieved.

OLAF

How did I get here? I can't remember.

FEYHILD

That's because you were asleep. I fetched you from the underworld, and brought you back.

OLAF

Oh, and I had the horn...

FEYHILD

I've got that too. Thank you.

OLAF

And a bag of gold!

Olaf looks through his stuff. Feyhild shrugs her shoulders at him.

FEYHILD

There was no bag of gold.

OLAF

Damn those thieving dwarves.

(a beat)

What else am I forgetting?

FEYHILD

Only that you need to get to the Royal Hall in Jelling to stop your true bride from getting married.

OLAF

Oh, yes.

He sits back a moment drinking. Then he starts to get up.

FEYHILD

Don't go just yet. You have time. I made you some meal.

Olaf looks over at the food. On cue, his stomach growls.

OLAF

Only a moment then. Tell me, what do you know of Hagen?

Feyhild spoons out some porridge for him.

FEYHILD

They are coming by sea, in six boats. You must go to the fishing village and meet up with them later today.

Olaf takes the bowl, then stops and stares at her.

OLAF

You know so much. And I owe you everything. Surely you are the wisest person I've ever met.

FEYHILD

That's may be true. But remember, you've also done me a great favor by bringing the golden horn to me.

OLAF

Then we've helped each other. Still... thank you.

He eats more porridge.

EXT. ON SEA AT FISHING VILLAGE - DAY

Gunnar and Cain are standing in the prow of their boat, some wind fills the sails. They look to the right, on the shore, and see the little fishing village with a few houses. Hagen stands up and talks to them.

HAGEN

I think it was this village that I took the boat.

CAIN

We'll have to return it soon ... but not today.

They see one fisherman spreading out his net for repairs. They quietly sail on, watching the shoreline for trouble, when Hagen sees a man in a grey wolf's fur looking back!

HAGEN

GUNNAR! CAIN! There's Olaf.

CAIN

You really think that's him?

Hagen waves to the shore, and the figure waves back. Then they see a golden sword in his hand, waving.

HAGEN

That's him! And he's got the golden sword.

Cain and Gunnar both look carefully. Then Gunnar looks to the boat crew and orders them:

GUNNAR

Take the sail down, and steer to shore. That's our young lord, and soon-to-be king.

The sail comes down, then the other sails, in other boats come down too. The lead boat goes to shore.

INT. URSA'S NEW ROOM - EVENING

Ursa has on a dress, and the bodice is not tightened at the back. She looks out the window. From the red colored sky, it is getting late. ERICA is here with her.

ERICA

If you have to marry him, my lady, just do it. It's better than killing yourself.

URSA

I can't even think about tomorrow.

In the door comes two viking women sewing women. One is a DRESSMAKER, 25. They come and check Ursa for fit, then start cinching up the back bodice.

DRESSMAKER

His highness asks for nothing less than a perfect fit. Let's make sure this is snug.

INT. JELLING ROYAL HALL - EVENING

The king, Sven and a few other men are drinking mead. Sven is happily showing off the beautiful silver swords.

The royal seer, THORA, 40, enters and comes forward.

OTTAR

Ah... the seer. Come here and tell us what these runes say.

The seer comes and examines the swords. They are beautiful, and etched with runes, and inset jewels.

THORA

These are Dwarven runes. Made by the silversmiths of the underworld.

OTTAR

Are they swords of the Gods?

THORA

I don't think so. I have heard that those are only made of gold.

SVEN

(angry, slaps her)

What do you know? These MUST be swords of the Gods. Look how beautiful they are.

THORA

I'm sorry my lord. That's all I know.

SVEN

Leave us then.

OTTAR

Wait! The prince is upset. After he risked his life, he was expecting these to be special. Tell me, What do the runes say?

Thora reads the runes the best she can.

THORA

I think this one says: Balmung, and the other Milmung. These are blessed swords pulled from the great oak tree 'Branstock'.

OTTAR

Blessed? How?

THORA

They have magic. One is
fearlessness in battle, and the
other gives you stamina.

OTTAR

Alright. You can leave.

Thora leaves, afraid to look back.

SVEN

Neither sword is Grim's sword? How
can that be?

OTTAR

Still... these are fine swords.
Better than anything our smiths
have made. We should test them.

SVEN

(looking happier)

That's a great idea. Bring in some
slaves and I'll cut their heads
off!

All the men laugh at his jest.

OTTAR

Let's test for balance first.
Let's throw them at the butt.

Sven and he steps away from the table and line themselves
up with an archery target (butt). They each have one sword
in hand and drink and laugh as they get ready to toss.

They throw together, and both silver swords fly through the
air, rotating, and both hit equally well in the butt.

SVEN

Perfect!

They walk and retrieve the swords. At the main table,
servants set it for the supper meal. Plates, trenchers,
spoons, bowls, baskets of bread, etc. (Meats come later).

EXT. JELLING TOWN ATTACK - NIGHT

Outside the Hall, nearly ninety men from Arhus slowly advance, house to house to get to the Royal Hall. Gunnar is with Hagen, and Olaf is with Cain. They are followed by all their men, in the shadows. Gunnar waits to see Olaf at a far house. They signal to keep advancing.

GUNNAR

(to Hagen)

If we take the Royal Hall by surprise, we can hold the king hostage. That way we don't have to kill every viking who opposes us.

HAGEN

And that's very good. We are all just loyal warriors to one king of the other.

Then they advance some more. As they get closer they have to start silencing some small shouts. They punch and use clubs to knock out these people.

ON OLAF: He's with Cain. They advance another house, and have to tackle and knock a man unconscious. Then the wife calls for help. A few of Cain's warriors catch up to them and they put a hand over her mouth, and a dagger to her throat.

CAIN

We don't want to kill anyone.
We've just come to confront the
Prince. You understand?

She nods. The warrior remains with his hand over her mouth.

OLAF

This sneaking in at night... like
thieves. It's not like Thor.

CAIN

I know. But they have at least
double the men. At least we have
surprise on our side.

They finally arrive at the Royal Hall. A few men shout, but they are knocked out by long wooden staffs, or bottom end of spears.

From inside the hall, they hear some shouts now.

VOICE (o.c.)

Guard! Who goes there?

When they are not answered, the warriors inside are alarmed.

SVEN (o.c.)

There is foul play outside. Men...
get ready to fight.

INT. ROYAL HALL - NIGHT

The door flies open and men run in, carrying round shields, and wearing helmets. The defenders inside have no shields or helmets. Sven and Ottar are near the back waiting, holding these dwarven swords. The first ten men inside are killed and stabbed, but the fight pushes inside and soon, Olaf and Cain are inside, looking for Sven.

OLAF

He's there! At the throne.

They fight their way past a few men and finally Sven engages fighting with Olaf, and Cain with Ottar.

SVEN

I thought I was done with you,
servant.

OLAF

But I'm not done with you!

Olaf brings up his golden sword and strikes at Sven. He defends with the silver sword, but looks surprised at the gold.

SVEN

Where did you get that?

OLAF

From the giant! After I beheaded
him!

Sven struggles with his fear and doubt a moment, and Olaf has the advantage. He pushes him back.

BESIDE him: Cain fights King Ottar, who wields a dwarven sword. Cain strikes many times, but becomes tired as he can't find a way to beat down the sword.

CAIN

Highness. You're sword is unbeatable !

OTTAR

It might be. This is a gift from the gods.

INT. URSA'S NEW ROOM - EVENING

Ursa has her sleeping underwear on and sits on her bedside. Suddenly they hear shouts of alarm. She looks at Erica, sitting across from her.

URSA

What do you suppose that is?

ERICA

Do think our prayers are answered?

URSA

Yes... YES. Get dressed!

They start to get dressed, and then EMMA enters their room.

EMMA

Ladies! It's time! Our Hall is under attack. We can get out now!

URSA

Just give us minute to get dressed!

INT. ROYAL HALL - NIGHT

Olaf throws this shield aside, and removes his helmet. He presses Sven to behind the throne. They continue with swordplay, sword against sword.

SVEN

You can't kill someone of royal blood.

OLAF

Why not? You found it easy to
kill Ursa's father. You think Odin
applauds murder of your own thane?

SVEN

But my destiny, by Odin's will, is
to rule as king.

OLAF

Really? Then why do I have the
Sword of Grim?

They continue to fight. Near them Cain still fights Ottar.

At the doorway Hagen and Gunnar fight their way in, and
battle some vikings. Many attackers use the shafts of their
spears, or punches to knock the defenders unconscious.

Behind them now, Ottar gets an advantage on Cain, and stabs
him! As Cain falls to the floor, Ottar turns and goes to
attack Olaf, by stabbing him in the back!

SVEN

Do it!

Then an arrow, fired by HAGEN, near the front, hits OTTAR
directly through his neck! He spurts blood and falls to the
floor. Sven is distracted by his father's death, and Olaf
has the advantage. He takes Sven's sword out of his hand
and puts the sword of Grim to his neck.

OLAF

Now it's time for you to die,
Prince.

The fighting is mostly over behind them and in the doorway
comes the queen, Emma.

EMMA (o.c.)

No! Spare his life!

Olaf looks to the doorway and sees her there. He hesitates,
then looks back at Sven, helpless in his grip.

OLAF

He should die for his murderous
deeds. Odin demands it!

EMMA

But forgiveness... is even more
rewarded by the gods.

Olaf tried to calm down from his rage. He thinks twice now
of killing Sven. He still holds him in his grip.

OLAF

Gunnar! What should I do?

Gunnar arrives at his side, and the queen arrives too.

EMMA

Listen to me, Olaf. The king is
dead, and now the kingdom is yours
by right of battle. You can let me
have my son. That's all I want.

Finally Olaf throws Sven to the floor. He looks to Gunnar.

OLAF

The queen is right. The king is
dead. Enough blood has been shed
tonight.

Olaf turns to the queen.

OLAF

You will be banished from the
kingdom with your son. If you
return you will be killed.

EMMA

Yes. I understand, and thank you.

She helps her son up, then Olaf faces him.

OLAF

I spare your life! You understand?
You can never come back to these
lands.

Sven nods and is then escorted out of the hall by four
warriors. Olaf calls to the guards.

OLAF

They leave tonight, and take
nothing but he clothes on their
back!

As soon as they are taken outside, URSA appears in the doorway. She walks to him, and is followed by Erica. When Ursa meets him, his eyes tear up with emotion.

URSA

I saw what you did. You are more
noble to forgive than to exact
revenge. You really are ready to
be the new king.

Olaf hugs her and kisses her.

OLAF

I... I'm so happy that you're
alive. I didn't know what happened
to you.

URSA

I was just waiting for you.

They hug each other, as CAMERA dollies to outside.

FADE:

EXT. FOREST CLEARING AT JELLING - DAY

Just on the edge of the town, in a beautiful grassy clearing near some water, about a hundred people are assembled. They are well dressed and stand in a large circle. Olaf and Ursa are in the center, listening to a recital by three elderly people, who perform such ceremonies.

The bridal party has Olaf, and Ursa, then Erica and Hagen as maiden and groomsman, and Gunnar and Ursa mother, FREYA are here.

Ursa wears a fancy bridal crown of gold, but decorated with fresh flowers. Olaf wears a wooden, nicely carved HAMMER of THOR pendant around his neck, and he wears his golden sword of Grim at his side. He too has a crown - of the king.

He turns and takes one of the dwarven silver swords from Hagen, and turns to her, presenting it. She takes it, bowing, and hands it to her maiden, Erica.

The ELDERLY WOMAN, 60, says a few more words:

ELDERLY WOMAN

And now, the honey mead, prepared
for the bride and groom, to drink
during their first month together.

One elder carries a large wineskin of mead, and pours some
into a large bowl, carried by another. Then the speaker
woman receives an evergreen bough, dips it into the mead,
and sprinkles it over the bride, groom, then the others in
the wedding party.

ELDERLY WOMAN

And finally ... the rings. They
represent the unbroken commitment
to each other.

Olaf produces a ring, and puts it on Ursa's finger. Ursa
also receives a ring and puts it on Olaf's finger.

ELDERLY WOMAN

And now Ursa, and Olaf, you are
married under the eyes of Odin and
Frigga, and witnessed by all here.
You may kiss the bride, your
majesty.

The Elderly lady bows to Olaf and Ursa.

Olaf and Ursa have a very nice romantic kiss and the crowd
cheers. Then all the people walk up to Olaf and Ursa,
shaking their hands and hugging and kissing them on the
cheeks.

CAMERA cranes up slowly.

GUNNAR

What about the 'running of the
bride'?

HAGEN

Oh, yes. Is that the last one to
get to the hall must pour the mead
for the other all night?

Gunnar just grins at Hagen and nods enthusiastically.

FREYA

You don't forget about anything,
do you Gunnar?

The crowd then shouts for them to do the running. Freya gets in front of them and gets them ready.

FREYA

Get ready, now. Let's be fair.

Then Freya lets Ursa go first. Olaf is held back by Freya.

OLAF

Hey.. what?

FREYA

Come on now, give her a chance.

OLAF

Ok, ok. Good enough. She'll win!

Freya laughs and lets him go. Half the people there also follow the couple, running back to the Royal Hall.

FADE OUT:

END